



Summer 2022 – Primary School Summer Programmes for Pupils with Complex Educational Needs and Pupils at risk of Educational Disadvantage

03 May 2022

Dear Principal,

Ministers Foley and Madigan recently announced a package of supports to allow schools across the primary and post primary sector to offer a summer programme for children with complex special educational needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage. The purpose of this letter is to set out in greater detail how the primary programmes will operate including further information on the range of supports on offer.

The programmes on offer this summer include a 2-3 week summer programme available to all primary schools, the existing programmes in special schools and classes and the Literacy and Numeracy Camps in DEIS primary schools.

Primary schools with special classes and special schools can offer an extended programme in 2022

This range of programmes on offer builds on the success of the expanded programmes that ran in 2021 which incorporates feedback from education stakeholders as to how to better support the programme for all involved in summer 2022.

The Department is conscious that the last two years has presented significant and unprecedented challenges for school staff but hopes that the guidance, support structures and a new online payments portal will encourage schools to run the programme this year.

It is accepted that school-based programmes provide a more holistic experience for the pupils and help retain the important connection with school and peers.

Measures to support schools to run the programme for summer 2022:

- **Overseer** – All schools can appoint an Overseer, which is a non-teaching role to oversee the schools summer programmes. This does not need to be the school principal, it can be any permanent teacher in the school.
- **Preparation Time** – There is an additional 10 hours of paid time for each week of each programme and 12 hours per week for each week of the Special Class/Special School Programme. Preparation hours can be undertaken by any teacher(s) employed by the school including the teacher appointed to the Overseer role.
- **Additional Pay** – Teachers and SNAs working on the programme will receive an additional weeks pay for each week of the programme based on their personal rate of pay.
- **Online Payment Claims Portal** – to reduce delays and complexity in submissions of school claims.



- **Earlier Payment of Staff** – Payment will be processed when they are received over the summer thereby reducing payment timeframes. School Overseers are encouraged to meet published deadline to support this process.
- **Flexibility** – Schools can run the programme at any time during the school holidays.
- **External Staff** – Schools can engage substitute teachers and SNAs from outside of their school if the staff normally employed by the school are not available. The Teaching Council and the Irish Primary Principal's Network (IPPN) will promote the summer programmes with this year's graduate teachers and undergraduate students registered under Route 5 to increase the supply of available teachers this summer via <https://www.educationposts.ie/>. This portal supports recruitment of staff for posts in the primary and post-primary sector.
- **Less Administration** – Applications and payment processes have been streamlined
- **Support and Guidance** – Helpline and guidance material will be provided.
- **Running Costs** – A capitation grant of €30 per pupils per week will be paid to all participating schools and €60 per pupil per week in the Special Class and Special School Programme.
- **School Transport** - School transport services may be available to students who avail of services under the SEN transport scheme. Where services are not available for students who normally avail of SEN transport scheme, grant funding is payable to parents following completion of the programme.

The programme aims are to support pupils to re-engage with education, to build their confidence and increase their motivation, promote wellbeing and for some who are at key transition stages, help to ensure they can move onto their planned further educational placement or adult service next September as appropriate.

Further details on the schemes including available supports and how schools can apply are available at gov.ie/summerprogramme.

A home-based summer programme will be available for pupils with **complex special educational needs** where schools are not providing a school-based programme. An application and information pack on the home-based scheme which can be provided to parents will follow in the coming weeks.

Your co-operation and support for this summer programme would be appreciated and if you have any queries please email schoolsummerprogramme@education.gov.ie or call 090 648 4292

Yours faithfully

Frank Hanlon
Principal Officer
Inclusion & Special Educational Needs (SEN)