

## What is expected of parents/guardians while children attend the SSLD Classes?

Once your child is offered a place in the class, you will be required to visit the class before the placement starts. Parents/guardians will also be expected to attend meetings that are arranged between the teacher, SLT and parent as required during the school year.

During the SSLD class placement parents must attend their child's individual speech and language therapy sessions every two weeks (at a minimum). Parents must carry out speech and language therapy homework every day while the child is attending the SSLD class. The SSLD teacher will also assign class homework daily and it is vital that this is completed.

Completion of homework activities and attendance at SLT sessions is essential to ensure that your child benefits fully from his/her time in the class. We have a very limited number of places in the SSLD classes so if your child is offered this opportunity it is essential that you work with us in order to make the most of their time with us. It is the responsibility of every parent to ensure that your child is in attendance at school every day.

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure that the child is ready for the bus each morning and that somebody is at home to meet the child every afternoon.

Your child's placement in the SSLD class will be reviewed in February each year. Your level of cooperation with the SLT and teacher during the course of the year will be among the factors taken into consideration as part of this review.

Your local SSLD Classes are based in **St. Patricks' N. S., Drumcondra, Dublin 9** and in **Powerstown Educate Together N.S., Dublin 15.**

- We have three classes in our schools for children with specific speech and language disorder.
- Where possible and subject to availability, a child will be allocated a place in the SSLD class closest to their home.

\*The closing date for referrals to our classes is **March 1<sup>st</sup> 2017** for children to be considered for admission in September of that year.

You can contact the **School Principals** for further information:

**Tomás Moriarty** (St Patrick's NS) on 01-8372714 and **Helena Trench** (Powerstown ETNS) 01-8272018.

You can also contact **Sinéad Finn** (Senior Speech and Language Therapist) on 01-8373865 or 086-7785423.

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



**Specific Speech Language Disorder (SSLD) Classes**

**St. Patricks' N. S., Drumcondra, Dublin 9 and Powerstown Educate Together N.S., Dublin 15.**

## What is a SSLD Class?

A specific speech and language disorder (SSLD) class is a class in a mainstream primary school, which caters for the educational and speech and language needs of children with a specific speech and language disorder. Children stay in the class for 1-2 years, following which they generally return to mainstream classes in their local schools.

SSLD classes are jointly run by the Departments of Education and Science (DES) and Department of Health and Children. The classes are staffed by a primary school teacher and the children receive individual and group speech and language therapy intervention from a HSE Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) during their school day. There is an allocation of a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) in the classes also.

There are seven children in each SSLD class in any one year. SSLD classes follow the regular primary school curriculum with the exception of Irish. Children attending the SSLD classes integrate with their peers from mainstream classes for some subjects, during break times and for school activities such as concerts/ school tours.

Free transport to and from the SSLD classes is provided by the DES during the child's placement.

## What are the DES criteria for referral to the SSLD Classes?

Some children with a language disorder meet the DES referral criteria for SSLD Classes. These criteria (from the DES Circular 38/07) are:

- I. Assessment by a psychologist on a standardised test of intelligence, which places non-verbal, or performance ability

within the average range or above. (i.e. non-verbal IQ of 90, or above)

- II. Assessment on a standardised test of speech/language development by a speech and language therapist which places performance in one or more of the main areas of speech and language development at two standard deviations or more below the mean or at a generally equivalent level
- III. The pupils' difficulties are not attributable to hearing impairment, the hearing threshold for the speech related frequencies should be 40dB
- IV. Emotional or behavioural disorders or a physical disability are not considered to be primary causes.

## What are the additional local criteria for our SSLD classes?

- A child must be 4 years of age on / before 1<sup>st</sup> September of enrolment year.
- A clinical diagnosis of SSLD made by a Speech and Language Therapist (and psychologist) is necessary.
- The child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral: Dublin North City & County Community Healthcare Organisation (Dublin North Central & North West Dublin areas.)
- A child must have attended a minimum of eight sessions of 1:1 speech and language therapy within 9 months of the referral date (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017).
- The child's preschool / class teacher will be contacted to complete a report in relation to his / her progress at preschool / school.



## How do children get a place in the SSLD class?

Once the referral is made by your child's Speech and Language Therapist, your child will be discussed at the Common Advisory Admissions Meeting which takes place in April. Reports on your child will have been circulated to the members of this group, which include the following: -

- SSLD Class Speech and Language Therapists
- Speech and Language Therapy Manager
- SSLD Class Teachers
- School Principals
- Psychologists

The members of the Common Advisory Admissions Committee allocate places available in one of the SSLD classes based on agreed criteria.

Parents can find more information about this by viewing our admissions policies on our school websites: [www.saintpats.ie](http://www.saintpats.ie) (in the Policies section under the enrolment tab) and [www.powerstownet.com](http://www.powerstownet.com) (in the Enrolment section).