



St. Patrick's School, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Powerstown ETNS, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15



## **Summary of criteria for enrolment in the SSLD classes (as per the enrolment policies of St Patrick's NS and Powerstown ETNS)**

### **Criteria 1: Department of Education and Skills Criteria**

The DES has outlined the eligibility criteria for enrolment in an SSLD Class. These include exclusionary and discrepancy criteria in relation to language and IQ scores in children with SSLI. In order to be described as having a specific speech and language disorder in Ireland pupils should meet each of the following criteria (from the DES Circular 38/07):

- (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.

### **Criteria 2: Local Criteria**

The Common Advisory Admissions Committee (CAAC) under the direction of the Boards of Management (BOM) of both schools has the final decision in the enrolment of children in the SSLD Classes (subject to allowable appeals). Along with the DES criteria additional local criteria must be met by each applicant. The local criteria are:

- The child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral. This is Dublin North City & County Community Healthcare Organisation (Dublin North Central & North West Dublin areas).
- A child must be 4 years on/before the 1<sup>st</sup> of September in the year of their enrolment.
- 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).

### **Criteria 3: Priority Rating Scale**

- The Priority Rating Scale for SSLD Class Admissions is used during the Advisory Admissions Committee Meeting.
- This priority rating scale (PRS) was adapted from the New Brunswick Health and Community Services PRS and was developed in 1997. The Special Interest Group of SLTs in SSLI in Ireland has adapted the New Brunswick PRS for application to SSLD class admissions procedure. The rating scale has three sections: impact of the presenting problem (academic, social, emotional), predicted outcome of intervention (e.g. history and success of previous intervention) and impact of service delay. Information from the reports received on each applicant is used in the completion of this rating scale. Each child is then given an overall priority rating that is high, medium or low.
- All children are then listed in order of their priority. Those children at the top of the priority list will be recommended for places in the class for the academic year commencing in September of that year.
- Where the number of children referred exceeds the number of places available, names are placed on a prioritised waiting list for that admission year. This list of both children offered SSLD class places and children on a prioritised waiting list will be ratified by the BOM and noted in the BOM minutes.

### **Criteria 4: Age and Geography**

- Once children meet the DES and local eligibility criteria (outlined above), they are listed in order of priority of need using the Priority Rating Scale (detailed above).
- The Common Advisory Admissions Committee will then proceed to the enrolment stage. Children may be offered a place in Powerstown Educate Together NS (PETNS) or St. Patrick's BNS depending on age- appropriate available places in St. Patrick's SSLD classes and Powerstown ETNS Junior SSLD class.
- The Common Advisory Admissions Committee will endeavour, where possible, to offer the prioritised children an available place in the closest SSLD class to their home address. This is dependent on available places in the SSLD class.