




## Parent Information Leaflet for the Language Classes Service

<p><b>Who attends Language Classes?</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center;"><b>WHO?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children are of school age and have Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). This used to be called 'Specific Speech and/or Language Impairment/Disorder'.</li> <li>• At the time of application a child must be currently enrolled in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> class (or equivalent).</li> <li>• Children come to the Language Class because they need more support from the Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) and the Teacher.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is the Language Class?</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Language Class is a small class within a mainstream school. The children study the normal subjects, as they would in mainstream. We focus on supporting speech, language and communication development.</li> <li>• The SLT working in the school gives therapy to the children in the Language Class on a regular basis. The SLT sees children individually or in groups. An important part of therapy is working closely with parents and other professionals.</li> <li>• The Class has places for seven children. Children stay in the Language Class for up to 2 years.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Where are the Language Classes?</b></p>	<p>There are three language classes in this area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Patrick's National School, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 has two language classes. Tel: 01-8372148, <a href="http://www.saintpats.ie">www.saintpats.ie</a></li> </ul>



- Powerstown Educate Together National School, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15 has one language class. Tel: 01-8272018, [www.powerstownet.com](http://www.powerstownet.com)

### Who can refer my child?




- Your local SLT or Psychologist can talk through the referral to the Language Class with you. With your permission, they can refer your child to the Language Classes Applications Office c/o St. Patrick's Boys National School, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 for all classes in St. Patrick's BNS and Powerstown ETNS.
- The referral must include a number of forms and reports from parents, SLTs, Psychologists, Teachers and other professionals.

### What are the criteria for the classes?



- Your child will have to meet certain criteria decided on by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in circular 0038/2007 and local criteria also. Your child must have a diagnosis of DLD made by the SLT. Your referring SLT can explain more to you about this.
  - For Language Class referral your child must meet the current DES criteria which are:
    - Testing by a Psychologist, which shows that the child's non-verbal / performance intelligence quotient (IQ) is within the average range (i.e. a non-verbal IQ score of 90 or above).
    - Testing by an SLT which shows that at least one area of the child's speech and/or language skills are within the severe range (i.e. at or below a standard score of 70).
    - Your child should have a hearing threshold for speech sounds (40dB or below).
- There are also some local criteria:
- Referrals to the Language Classes are accepted from Speech & Language Therapists and Psychologists only
  - At the time of application a child must be currently enrolled in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>,

	<p>3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> class (or equivalent).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral. This is defined as the Dublin North Central and North West Dublin areas of the greater Dublin North City &amp; County Community Healthcare Organisation CHO.</li> <li>○ The child must have attended a minimum of <b>six sessions</b> of individual SLT therapy within nine months of the referral date. These therapy sessions can be online, clinic based or a combination of both.</li> <li>○ <b>The SLT assessment must have been carried out within the last 6 months of the referral deadline (i.e. SLTs may use scores from assessments administered from September 2021 onwards).</b></li> <li>○ An <b>up to date psychology report, within 3 years of referral; which includes the results of a comprehensive assessment of intellectual ability, including non-verbal index/factor scores and subtest results.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>When do I refer my child and how do I find out if my child has a place?</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The School Principals accept applications up to <b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b> – children start in the Language Class in September. All children referred do not get a place in the Language Class. The Advisory Admissions Committee meets in March/April each year to look at the referrals. The committee is made up of: School Principals, Language Class Teachers, SLT Manager, Language Class SLTs and Psychologists. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First we look at the children who best fit the criteria from the Department of Education and Skills and our local criteria. Next, we put the children in order of greatest need for the placement.</li> <li>2. Then the School Principals send out letters offering places.</li> <li>3. Usually there is a waiting list in case a child does not accept a place or drops out.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

**What should I do if my child is NOT offered a place?**



- Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that your child will get a Language Class place. This is because of the limited number of places available each year. If your child does not get a place, the School Principal will send you a letter. You can talk through options for your child with your local SLT. Your child will still be able to attend the local Speech and Language Therapy service and will continue to have support teaching in their mainstream class. You and your SLT can re-apply for a place in the Language Class the following year.

**What should I do if my child IS offered a place?**



- The school will contact you and ask you to sign and fill in some forms. You and your child will be invited to a group meeting in the Language Class in April/May. You will meet the Teacher, the Principal and the SLT. You will get to see the classroom and the therapy room. We can answer your questions at the meeting. We ask you to make sure your child's old school keeps a place for your child to go back to after their time in the Language Class. We ask that you talk this through with your school's Principal before you accept the place in the Language Class.
- If your child is offered and accepts a place, he or she will be discharged from the local SLT service for the time that they are in the Language Class.

**How will my child get to and from the Language Class?**



- Bus Eireann operate a free bus / taxi service for the Department of Education & Skills. The school will ask you to sign a form for this when you come in to the group meeting. At the end of August, you will be informed what time the bus will come to your house. There is a bus driver and an escort on each bus/taxi. When school starts, a bus will pick up your child from your home every morning and drop your child home every day after school. You must make sure that you (or a designated person) are there when your child is dropped home.
- You can get more information about this from the Department of Education & Skills, School Transport Section, Portlaoise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly Tel: 0506 24351/2/3/4/5/6.

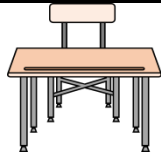
**How much will I need to be involved?**



- If your child is offered a place in the Language Class, you will need to:
  - Come to parent meetings
  - Come to Speech and Language Therapy sessions in the school
  - Help your child to complete SLT and Class homework
  - Make sure your child is in school every day
  - Help us to set your child's learning goals

**What happens in the Language Class?**

During your child's placement, you and your child, along with the Teacher, SLT and Special Needs Assistant all work together. We all give support to your child in different ways. The SLT sees each child on average a few times a week. Sometimes we run small groups. We might see your child one to one to work on what they need. Other times, the Teacher and SLT organise enjoyable, learning games with the whole class. In the classroom, we give support for reading and learning across all the curriculum areas. The



children will continue to do all the subjects, from Maths to History to Art, which they would be studying in their own mainstream class. We work to help your child use the language that they already have. We also help your child to understand how to have good conversations and how to be a good friend.

**How will my child benefit?**



Your support is needed for your child to get the full benefit from the Language Class. Your child's DLD cannot be 'fixed'. Your child may always have some problems with understanding and talking, but coming to the Language Class is very helpful for your child's learning, communication, confidence and wellbeing. We teach them some ways to cope that they can use throughout their lives. The Class Teacher can give your child more attention because it is a very small class. This placement gives your child an opportunity to learn in a place that is adapted to their needs.

**Will my child mix with other children in the school?**



Your child will stay in the Language Class for most of the school day. Sometimes he/she might go to another class in the school for P.E./sports, lessons in their stronger subjects or other activities. Children in the Language Class play/mix with rest of the school in the yard at break times also. Your child will also attend school ceremonies, special events, outings, school tours etc.

**When will my child return to his/her own school?**



The placement in the Language Class is for up to two years. Children sometimes go back to their previous school after just one year. This happens if we agree that your child does not need the place anymore. If this is the case, we will meet with you to talk through what to do next. We contact your local SLT when your child leaves the Language Class. We tell them what is happening and ask them to put your child back on their list for therapy if needed. The Language Class SLT will always talk with your child's next school to offer support and information to his/her new teachers.



**Where can I find out more information?**



Find out more at:

- Schools Websites: [www.saintpats.ie](http://www.saintpats.ie) and [www.powerstownet.com](http://www.powerstownet.com)
- The Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists Position paper and guidance document relating to DLD is at the link:  
<http://www.iaslt.ie/newFront/Documents/PublicInformation/Childhood%20Speech%20and%20Language/DLD%20Position%20Paper%20FINAL%2023MAY2017.pdf>
- Irish Parent Website: <https://rollercoaster.ie/information/language-class-for-children-with-ssli/>
- Afasic Website: <http://www.afasic.org.uk/resources/free-downloads/learning-about-impairments/>
- Raising Awareness of DLD Campaign: [www.radld.org](http://www.radld.org)
- I CAN Communication Charity: <http://www.ican.org.uk/>
- Literacy Trust Website: <http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/training-and-conferences/talk-to-your-baby>
- NCSE Ireland: [http://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Pamphlet-7-SSLD-01\\_09\\_14.pdf](http://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Pamphlet-7-SSLD-01_09_14.pdf)

***\*Some of these websites may still be using SSLI/SSLD (previous terminology) instead of DLD.***

<p>No I don't want to apply. What happens next?</p> 	<p>Your child stays in your local SLT service. Check with your school principal. Your child may be able to get support teaching hours at school. If you change your mind you and your SLT may wish to apply next year for the Language Class.</p>
<p>Yes, I want to apply. What happens next?</p> 	<p>Your speech and language therapist will explain what assessments and paperwork are needed.</p>



**No, I do not give my permission/ consent to apply to the language class for my child**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Yes, I give my permission/ consent to apply to the language class for my child**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_