
Scoil Lios na Groí

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Support Teaching in Our School - A Summary

It is our priority that every child should feel welcome and supported in school. Support teaching is part of how we do this. Support teaching might look like a second teacher supporting in class, or a teacher taking a small group of children, or one child, for additional support outside of class. This support can be for academic reasons, or for social, emotional or behavioural support. Over their 8 years with us, it is most likely that all children will receive some level of support.

Here are some of the key points from the Department of Education Guidelines on support teaching in schools. The Department use the term 'Special Education Teacher', we use 'support teacher'. The main message of the support model is that:

“ those with the greatest level of need should have access to the greatest level of support”

(taken from Guidelines for Primary Schools- Supporting children with special educational needs in Mainstream Classes December 2024)

Support for all

Your child's class teacher is their main source of support. If more help is needed, a support teacher or SNA where relevant, may provide in class, small group or one-to-one teaching.

No diagnosis needed

Children don't need a formal diagnosis to get support. Support is allocated based on need. Sharing professional reports with the school is helpful, but equally, a diagnosis does not automatically mean extra support. Teaching time is limited and is allocated carefully.

Flexible support

Schools use a step-by-step system, the Continuum of Support, to assess the level of the support different children will get. The model of support changes as the child's need increases/decreases. If you have concerns or questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Resources

All schools receive support teaching resources, but these are limited. We can't provide support to every child who may need it at all times. Instead, we use a flexible model, often working in blocks of intervention to make the best use of resources. Our support staff use their professional judgement to decide who receives support and when.

Student Support Plan

If your child is receiving extra support, teachers, parents, SNAs (if relevant), and the child will work together on a plan. This plan sets goals and is reviewed regularly. Your input into these plans is invaluable to us to ensure that each child gets the best level of support possible.

