

**Specific Speech & Language Disorder (SSLD) Class,  
Stapolin Educate Together National School, Dublin 13.**



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



**Information Leaflet for Parents & Teachers.**

This information leaflet is for parents of children **who are proceeding** with the referral process to the Senior SSLD Class, Stapolin ETNS

This leaflet will also provide information to the child's teacher(s) and current school.

**Opening date for application is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.**

**Closing Date for applications is Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**General Information**

Stapolin ETNS Language Class opened in September 2021. There are seven children in the class each year. The aim of the class is to provide children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) the opportunity to spend one or two years in a small class setting where they can receive intensive educational and speech & language therapy support. The class is staffed by a full time Teacher employed by the Department of Education (DE) and a part time Speech & Language Therapist employed by the HSE. Applications are accepted for children who are in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> class at the time of referral. Applications are only accepted for children who are up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> Class at the time of referral. The child must live within specific areas of the HSE Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County (Dublin North Area & Coolock Network). If you have a query regarding the catchment area for your child, please contact Stapolin ETNS or the local HSE Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) Department. Transport is provided by the Department of Education to successful applicants.

There is also a Junior Language Class in the catchment area. This is based in St Marnock's NS, Portmarnock. As the Junior Language Class in St. Marnock's and the Senior Language Class in Stapolin accept referrals from the same catchment area, both schools work in close collaboration with each other with regard to their Admissions policies. In the event that your child is eligible for a place in the Senior Language Class in Stapolin ETNS but is not offered a place due to insufficient places available you can give your consent for your child to be considered for a place in St Marnock's Junior Language Class. Your child's age and class level will also be taken into consideration and the School Principal would contact you to discuss this first.

### **Terminology:**

#### **Developmental Language Disorder**

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is the up-to-date term for 'Specific Speech & Language Disorder or Impairment' (SSLD/SSLI).

In May 2017, the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists (IASLT) launched a Position Paper & Guidance Document called 'Supporting Children with Developmental Language Disorder in Ireland'.

The term Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is the current term now in use in Ireland to refer to a wider group of clients. This term replaces the terminology of Specific Speech & Language Impairment (SSLI) or Specific Speech & Language Disorder (SSLD).

The current Department of Education (DE) criteria for referral to an SSLD Class have not changed. These classes continue to be referred to as an SSLD Class- Specific Speech & Language Disorder Class- by the DES.

Children eligible for referral to the SSLD class under the current DE criteria are a specific sub-group of children with a diagnosis of DLD.

### **Criteria for admission:**

#### **Criteria A:**

Children referred for SSLD Class placement consideration must meet the following Department of Education (DE) criteria as described in the DE Circular 38/07:

- 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)
- 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.
- The pupils' difficulties are not attributable to hearing impairment; the hearing threshold for the speech related frequencies should be 40dB.
- Emotional and behavioural disorders or a physical disability are not considered to be primary causes.

**Criteria B** : Along with the DE criteria above, additional **local criteria** must be met by each applicant. The current local criteria for the SSLD Class, Stapolin ETNS are:

(i) The applicant must live within the designated catchment area, as determined by the HSE, at the time of referral. At present this catchment area is HSE Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City & County (North Dublin Area & Coolock Network). A full list of the addresses covered by this catchment area is available from your local HSE Office.

(ii) The referral agent must be satisfied that the applicant's needs cannot be met by the current Speech & Language Therapy service provision.

(iii) Applications are accepted for children who are in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> class at the time of referral.

(iv) Children who are in 5<sup>th</sup> class at the time of referral to the Language class can only be considered for a 1-year placement. Such children will be discharged after one year in the Language Class.

(v) The applicant must have attended SLT sessions in the 9 months prior to the closing date for applications.

(vi) The referral and application process and the required documentation must be submitted in strict accordance with the procedure detailed below.

### **Referral Procedure**

- All referrals must be in writing and be accompanied by the reports listed below.

- Referrals are **only** accepted from **Speech & Language Therapists** or **Psychologists**.
- The referral and relevant reports and forms (**5 copies of each**) should be forwarded by the referral agent to the School Principal no later than **8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Referrals should include the following:**

- A cover letter to the School Principal signed by the referral agent.
- A completed '**Referral and Consent Form for SSLD Class**'. This includes a parental consent section and a Social, Emotional and Behavioural Rating Scale to be completed by the child's parents with the assistance of the SLT.
- An up-to-date **Psychology Report** (dated within 2 years of the closing date for applications) which includes the results of a comprehensive assessment of intellectual ability, including non-verbal IQ score; index/factor scores and subtest results.
- A completed **School Report** form which provides information on the impact of the child's language disorder on his/her educational progress and social/emotional development. Please refer to the instructions on the top of the form prior to completion. A Social, Emotional and Behavioural Rating scale for teacher(s) to complete is included in the school report form.
- An up-to-date **Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Report** (written within three months of the closing date) confirming a diagnosis of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). The SLT assessment must have been carried out not more than 6 months prior to the closing date for applications.
- Other reports where relevant should also be included such as Occupational Therapy Reports; Audiology Reports; Medical Reports etc.

**Selection Procedure**

The closing date for applications is the **8<sup>th</sup> March 2023** in accordance with the dates set out in Stapolin ETNS 'Annual Admission Notice'. Children who are offered places start in the Language Class in August/September of that year. Applicants will be informed in writing (by e-mail) as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the Annual Admission Notice (Stapolin ETNS Admissions Policy) If your child does not get a place your child's Speech and Language Therapist and your child's School Principal will advise you on the local supports available for your child.

**The closing date for applications is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The referral agent for your child should send **5 copies** of completed applications directly to:

**Clodagh Farrell, Principal, Stapolin ETNS, Belmayne Avenue, Dublin 13, D13 KT2N.**

For further information please contact:

**Clodagh Farrell, School Principal on 01 5241618 or [principal@stapolinetns.ie](mailto:principal@stapolinetns.ie)**

**or**

**Ciara O'Donnell, Senior Speech and Language Therapist on 087-1081941**

This leaflet briefly describes the Language Class referral process. The complete 'Admissions Policy', 'Specific Speech & Language Disorder Class Policy' and 'Annual Admission Notice' are available to view on the school website: [www.stapolinetns.ie](http://www.stapolinetns.ie)