

Parent Information Leaflet for DLD/SSD Classes,
St. Marnock's NS, and Stapolin ETNS.

Please read through this leaflet and talk about it with your child's Speech & Language Therapist (SLT). After you have read the information your SLT will ask you to sign the form saying if you would like an application to be made to the Developmental Language Disorder/Speech Sound Disorder DLD/SSD Class. You will be given this form to keep and the original signed copy will be kept on your child's SLT file.

<p>Who attends the DLD/SSD Classes?</p> <p>WHO?</p>	<p>Children come to the DLD/SSD Class because they have a diagnosis of DLD and/or SSD. The child has complex or severe educational needs as a result of their DLD and/or SSD of unknown origin that are pervasive in nature and require the integrated and targeted educational and therapeutic supports of a special class for children with DLD/SSD</p>
<p>What is the DLD/SSD Class?</p> 	<p>The DLD/SSD Class is a <u>small class</u> within a mainstream school. The Class has places for seven children. The children have access to the normal subjects but the focus is on supporting speech, language and communication development. Irish is not part of the Language Class curriculum. The SLT sees children individually or in small groups on a regular basis. An important part of therapy is working closely with parents, the DLD/SSD Class Teacher and other professionals. A place in the DLD/SSD Class is offered initially for 1 year. Some children may be offered a 2nd year based on certain criteria.</p>

<p>Where is the Language Class?</p> 	<p>The Classes for where you live are based in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St. Marnock's NS, Strand Rd., Portmarnock, Co. Dublin. <p>School Principal: Ms. Sinéad Trimble .Tel: 01-8462060 Email: stmarnocksns@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: www.stmarnocksns.ie</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Stapolin ETNS, Myrtle Rd, The Coast, Dublin 13 <p>School Principal: Ms Clodagh Farrell. Tel: 01 5241618 Email: principal @stapolinetns.ie</p> <p>Website: www.stapolinetns.ie</p> <p>Your SLT is talking to you about referring your child to the DLD/SSD classes in St. Marnock's NS and Stapolin ETNS. Your child's age and class level will be taken into consideration by the Admissions Advisory Committee (AAC) when deciding which class would best meet your child's needs.</p>
<p>Who can refer my child?</p> 	<p>Your child's Speech and Language Therapist can talk to you about referring your child to the DLD/SSD Class. With your permission, they can refer your child to the DLD/SSD Class. The referral must include a number of forms and reports from parents, SLTs, and Teachers.</p>
<p>What are the criteria for the classes?</p> 	<p>Your child will have to meet certain criteria decided on by the Department of Education (DE) in circular 0024/2025 and local criteria also. Your child must have a diagnosis of DLD and SSD (of unknown origin) by an SLT. Your local SLT can explain more to you about this.</p> <p>Applications are accepted for children who are in Junior Infants to 5th class by the closing date of the year of referral. The child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral. Your</p>

	<p>local HSE SLT will tell you if you live in the catchment area for the classes. For a full list of all criteria see www.stmarnocksns.ie/www.stapolinetns.ie 'Admissions Policy for DLD/SSD Classes.</p>
<p>When do I refer my child and how do I find out if my child has a place?</p> 	<p>The closing date for applications is the Monday March 2nd 2026 Children who are offered places start in August of that year. The Admissions Advisory Committee meets in March each year to look at the referrals. The committee members are: School Principals, DLD/SSD Class Teachers, SLT Manager, and DLD/SSD SLTs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initially the referrals are examined to see if they meet the criteria set by the Department of Education (DE) and the local criteria. 2. Applications that meet the DE and local criteria are then discussed by the Admissions Advisory Committee in detail and considered in order of greatest need for a place in the DLD/SSD Classes. 3. Parents are informed via email of the outcome of the application by the School Principal. 4. A waiting list of eligible applicants is formed in case a place is not taken up.
<p>What should I do if my child is NOT offered a place?</p> 	<p>Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that your child will get a DLD/SSD Class place. This is because of the limited number of places available each year or it may be that your child does not meet the DE and local criteria. You are informed by the School Principal if your child has not got a place. You can talk through options for your child with your local SLT. Your child will still be able to attend the local SLT service. You and your SLT can re-apply for a place in the DLD/SSD Classes the following year. Your SLT will tell you if new assessments are needed and if your child is still eligible for a place in the DLD/SSD Class.</p>

<p>What should I do if my child is offered a place?</p> 	<p>The school will contact you and ask you to sign and fill in some forms. You and your child will be invited to meet the DLD/SSD Class Teacher and Speech and Language Therapist and the school Principal in June. You will get to see the classroom, the therapy room and the rest of the school.</p> <p>We can answer your questions at the visit. We ask you to make sure your child's <i>current school keeps a place for your child to go back to after their time in the DLD/SSD Class</i>. If your child is offered a place make sure to talk to your child's current School Principal about this. If your child is offered and accepts a place, he or she will not attend the local SLT service for the time that they are in the Class.</p>
<p>How will my child get to and from the Language Class?</p> 	<p>Bus Eireann operate a free bus / taxi service for the Department of Education. The school will ask you to sign a form at time of enrolment. 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 them home every day after school. You must make sure that you are at home when your child is being collected and dropped home. <u>Further details</u>: DE School Transport Section, Portlaoise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly Tel: 0506 24351/2/3/4/5/6.</p>
<p>How much will I need to be involved?</p> 	<p>If your child is offered a place in the DLD/SSD Class, you will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be available for parent meetings & Speech and Language Therapy sessions - Help your child to complete SLT and Class homework - Make sure your child is ready for early morning Taxi pick up. - Help us to set your child's learning goals

What happens in the DLD/SSD Class? 	<p>During your child's placement, you and your child, along with the Teacher, SLT and school staff 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. Therapy consists of 1:1 sessions, small groups and whole class groups. Other times, the Teacher and SLT work together with the whole class. In the classroom, we give support for language, literacy and learning the curriculum. We work in a variety of ways to help your child develop their speech, language and communication skills.</p>
How will my child benefit? 	<p>Your support is needed for your child to get the full benefit from the DLD/SSD Class. Your child's DLD cannot be 'fixed'. Your child may always have some problems with understanding and talking, but coming to the DLD/SSD 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. This placement gives your child an opportunity to learn in a small class that is adapted to their Speech & Language needs.</p>
Will my child mix with other children in the school? 	<p>Your child will stay in the DLD/SSD Class for most of the school day. They will have outdoor yard time with the mainstream classes and they may be integrated with these classes for some subjects or activities.</p>

<p>When will my child return to his/her own school?</p> 	<p>The placement in the DLD/SSD Class is offered initially for one year. Some children may be offered a second year. The Teacher & SLT will discuss this with you during your child's first year. Before your child finishes in the DLD/SSD Class we contact your local SLT Service. We tell them what is happening and ask them to put your child's name back on their list. The DLD/SSD Class SLT & Teacher will always connect with your child's next school to offer support and information to his/her new teachers.</p>
<p>No I don't want to apply. What happens next?</p> 	<p>Your child stays in your local SLT service.</p> <p>Check with your local school principal. Your child may be able to get support teaching hours at school.</p> <p>If you change your mind you and your SLT may wish to apply next year for the DLD/SSD Class. Your child's SLT will need to arrange up to date assessments to make sure that your child continues to meet the DE and local criteria.</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> <p>You will be asked to indicate if you wish to proceed with the application or not by signing below.</p>



Yes, I give my permission/ consent to apply to the DLD/SSD class for my child.

Signed _____

Date: _____



No, I do not give my permission/ consent to apply to the DLD/SSD class for my child.

Signed _____

Date: _____

Where can I find out more information?



To find out more about DLD:

www.iaslt.ie: 'Supporting Children with Development Language Disorder in Ireland'. 2017

www.radld.org Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder.

To find out more about St. Marnock's NS and Stapolin ETNS see websites

www.stmarnockns.ie www.stapolinetns.ie

The original signed copy of this form will be retained in your child's HSE SLT File.