



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

2021 Summer Programme for all Primary Schools



Impact of COVID-19 on the education of pupils with complex needs and pupils at risk of educational disadvantage.

The Department of Education acknowledges that teachers and principals throughout the school system have made huge efforts and undertaken a lot of work over the past 14 months in order to adapt their teaching approaches to facilitate a move to remote teaching and learning. While significant work has been carried out at school level to encourage all pupils to engage in learning, not all pupils have engaged. Remote learning represents a particular challenge for many pupils with complex educational needs and those who are socio-economically disadvantaged. Many of these pupils and their families have limited opportunity to engage with learning in a remote teaching environment. There is a risk that some pupils will find it challenging to transition successfully to a more senior class or to re-engage with school in September 2021.

Expanded Summer Programme 2021

The Government has recently announced the provision of expanded summer education programmes for pupils with complex special educational needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage, as a COVID-19 pandemic response measure, for summer 2021.

The programme's aim is to support pupils to re-engage with education, to build their confidence and increase their motivation, promote wellbeing and for some who are at key transition stages, help to ensure they can progress to their planned educational placement next September along with their peers.

A school-based programme would provide a more holistic experience for pupils and help keep the connection with school and peers. The Department is therefore seeking to involve more primary schools by providing all primary schools with the opportunity to provide summer programmes this year.

Measures to encourage schools to offer the programme

Enhanced measures have been put in place to encourage schools to offer the programme, including measures to reduce the administrative burden, provision of funding to schools towards preparation and overseeing of the programmes, earlier payment of school staff and provision to recruit newly qualified teachers graduating this summer to work on the programme.

Summer Programme for all Primary Schools

This year all primary schools have the opportunity to provide a new 2-3 week summer programme for mainstream pupils with complex needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage.

In addition, the Department is expanding the programmes that ran last year in special schools and classes and in DEIS schools. This means that there are three programmes available at Primary Level:

1. A new Primary Complex Needs/Inclusion Programme for pupils in mainstream classes.
2. An expanded summer programme for pupils in primary special classes and special schools.
3. An expanded literacy and numeracy summer camp/campaí samhraidh programme for pupils in DEIS schools which may be organised through the medium of English or Gaeilge.

The 3 Programmes at Primary Level.

The three programmes available at Primary Level for 2021 are as follows:

1. NEW Primary Programme for pupils with Complex Educational Needs and pupils at risk of Educational Disadvantage.

- 2 or 3 Week Summer Programme for children with Complex Needs and education disadvantage
- Pupil groups of up to 12 children supported by 1 teacher and 1 SNA
- Number of groups is based on enrolment.
- First places given to children with complex needs
- It is expected that schools will have at least 50% of places remaining after they have assigned places to pupils with complex needs. The remainder should be assigned to pupils at most risk of educational disadvantage.
- If more than 50% of places are assigned to pupils with complex needs the school can apply to the Department of Education for an additional group.
- Guidance is available to help schools select students for participation in the programme.

Staffing allocations

Staffing allocations are based on enrolment. Schools can form summer programme pupil groups of 12 pupils supported by 1 teacher and 1 SNA.

Enrolment	Teachers	SNAs	No. of Pupils Groups
Under 300	1	1	1
300 - 599	2	2	2
600-899	3	3	3
900 +	4	4	4

Categories of pupils with Complex Needs

The following categories of pupils are considered as pupils with complex needs in mainstream classes:

- Pupils in mainstream classes in primary schools who are accessing the highest level of the continuum of support (Pupil Support Plus/for a few). This includes pupils with Autism, Down syndrome, sensory impairments, and other disabilities who were identified for the supplementary programme earlier this year.
- Children in the above categories entering primary school next September are also eligible for the programme.

The following is a guide to assist schools in selecting pupils for the remaining places following the allocation to pupils with complex needs:

- Pupils already identified by the school as being most at risk of educational disadvantage and early school leaving.
- Pupils who did not access or engage fully in online learning during the school closures in 2020 and in 2021.
- Pupils accessing SET or SNA school supports during the school year
- Pupils whose domestic circumstances or home environment are not conducive to online learning.
- Pupils who have missed significant periods of school or who have been identified as having poor attendance
- Pupils from the Traveller and Roma communities.
- EAL Pupils who lost out on contact with English language during school closures.

The above criteria are not prescriptive but are intended as a guideline. **These categories are a guide only.** To assist in identifying students who should be invited to take part in the programme, please refer to the [Guidance document](#)

Schools are best placed and have autonomy to determine which pupils are most likely to be at risk of educational disadvantage. And in deciding how best to run this programme to meet the needs of their cohort of pupils.

Home-based provision will be available for pupils with complex needs where no school-based programme is available. Applications forms will issue to school in the week commencing 31 May, 2021.

Pupils with complex needs who are at very high risk of contacting COVID-19 who have not returned to school this year can access the home-based scheme remotely, if required.

2. Expanded Special Class and Special School Programme

- Available to all special schools and special classes
- 2-5 week SEN Summer Programme for pupils enrolled in special classes and special schools
- Staffing resources (teachers and special needs assistants) are the same as those provided during the school year.

If the number of places available in a special school summer programme is less than the number of pupils enrolled in a school, schools should focus on pupils that have difficulty accessing the home-based programme.

Pupils who cannot be facilitated within the special class or special school programme will be eligible to apply for the home-based programme. Application forms will issue to school in the week commencing 31 May, 2021.

3. Expanded literacy and numeracy summer camp programme/campaí samhraidh

- Available to all DEIS Primary Schools
- Schools can choose to run up to 2 literacy and numeracy camps/Campaí Samhraidh of one weeks duration each
- Up to 36 pupils per week each week
- Camps supported by 1 teacher for every 12 pupils

Schools are free to target the cohort of pupils they feel will benefit from the experience, taking due cognisance of the importance of early intervention and pupils' individual needs. Schools may allocate places to any age range, including 6th class.

The design of the Summer Camp, in line with the Framework set out in the [Camp Handbook](#) will be decided by each school, based on their pupils' needs. The programme is funded to target educational and social disadvantage. It seeks to assist pupils who are experiencing social or academic difficulties in language and numeracy who would benefit from a week-long Summer Camp with a very small teacher-pupil ratio.

Most camps will have a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:12 with a total of 36 pupils. However, schools may apply to run a Summer Camp comprising 2 teachers and 24 pupils (ratio of 1:12 maintained).

The DEIS Primary literacy and numeracy camps/Campaí Samhraidh must be taught by registered teachers.

Online Expression of Interest

An online expression of interest for schools for the summer programmes is available here:

<https://dessurveys.education.gov.ie/surveys/Summer-Programme-Primary>

School are asked to complete and submit this form indicating participation **on or before Thursday 10 June 2021**.

All relevant information and resources on summer programmes can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.ie/summerprovision>

Staffing Information

Programme Overseer

Each school must appoint one Overseer for the summer programme. The Overseer role must be undertaken by a permanent teacher in the participating school. The role of the Overseer is to manage/oversee the summer programme and he/she must be present in the school for the full duration of the programme in order to deal with any issues that may arise.

The Overseer is not permitted to participate in the programme in a teaching role.

The Overseer role is not limited to but will include the following duties:

- Point of contact for the Department and/or Education Centre and parents in relation to the summer programme
- Establish and ensure that their programme operates within existing approved and appropriate allocations for the participating pupils
- Being available in the school for the full duration of the programme and dealing with any day to day issues as they arise
- Ensuring the current public health COVID-19 guidance and advice is adhered to by both pupils and summer programme staff
- Where available, ensuring school meals are provided to pupils enrolled in the summer programme
- Dealing with any issues relating to transport services
- Making the appropriate returns to the Department in respect of teacher, Overseer and SNA remuneration
- Submit claim to the Department or Education Centre for capitation and any transport costs
- Ensures any summer programme evaluation material is completed and returned to the Department, including any online evaluation questionnaires

Preparation hours

Preparation hours will be allocated at 10 hours per programme per week for each week of the programme.

Schools offering more than one programme will be provided with preparation hours for each programme.

Preparation hours can be undertaken by any permanent teacher(s) employed by the school including the teacher appointed to the Overseer role. (NOTE: The total preparation hours can be allocated to more than one teacher). It is envisaged that the bulk of preparation hours will be used prior to the commencement of the summer programme.

Preparation hours may be used for some or all of the following activities:

- Recruit staff to work on the primary summer programme
- Where schools are using external staff, establish procedures to facilitate the transfer of relevant pupil information, appropriate planning documentation and details of school policies and procedures to new staff or to staff who are unfamiliar with the pupils
- Identify target pupils to enrol on the summer programme and communicate with their parents/guardians
- Familiarise teachers/SNAs with guidance materials and resources provided by the Department

- Develop a timetable for the summer programme
- Where required, make arrangements for transport
- Where required, put in place suitable arrangements for school meals provision

Payments to Overseers, teaching staff and SNAs

Overseers, teachers and SNAs who work on the programme will be paid additional remuneration based on what they are normally paid during the school year, i.e. their personal rate.

Preparation hours will be paid in the same way.

The Department will process payments to teachers and SNAs as completed payment claims forms are received in the Department over the summer period, thus reducing payment timeframes of previous years.

Substitute Rates of pay for the teacher and SNA

Contracted Teachers and SNAs will be paid additional remuneration based on what they are normally paid during the school year i.e. their personal rate. All others will be paid a daily/hourly rate of pay.

Recruitment of External Staff

With the exception of the Overseer role which must be undertaken by permanent teacher(s) in the participating school, schools can employ teachers and/or SNAs from outside of their school if the staff normally employed by the school are not available for any/all of the summer programme.

The Teaching Council and Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN) will promote the summer programmes with this year's graduate teachers and Professional Masters of Education (PME) students to increase the supply of available teachers this summer.

To help teachers and SNAs identify summer programme vacancies in schools, the IPPN has created a Summer Provision Noticeboard for teachers and SNAs. You can view this noticeboard on www.educationposts.ie It will help schools find relevant staff in their local area.

Schools must comply with standard recruitment and vetting procedures in the employment of all staff.

Recruitment of Graduate and PME student teachers

Graduate teachers can work on the summer programme where they have commenced their registration process with the Teaching Council and where the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. They have received their final results from their HEI confirming they are eligible for registration with the Teaching Council
2. Garda vetting has been completed as part of their application for registration with the Teaching Council.
3. Their registration with the Council will be finalised prior to 8 October 2021

A PME student teacher registered with the Teaching Council under Further Education can be engaged by primary or post-primary schools.

PME student teachers who have applied for registration with the Teaching Council under Further Education can be engaged by primary or post-primary schools where the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. Garda vetting has been completed as part of their application for registration with the Teaching Council.
2. Their registration with the Council under Further Education will be finalised prior to 8 October 2021

PME student teachers registered with the Teaching Council under the Further Education route will be paid at the modified rate for work on the summer programme.

Graduate and PME student teachers will be paid in the same manner as substitute staff (see above).

Funding provided

Capitation

A non-pay grant of €30 per pupil per week will be paid to all participating schools. The Department will contact schools in relation to this.

School Meals

The Department of Social Protection has been requested to consider making funding from the School Meals Programme available so that meals (breakfast and lunch) can be provided to pupils attending in all schools, both primary and post-primary, for the duration of the summer programmes in 2021. The issue is currently being considered by the Department of Social Protection. If approved, the rate applicable would be €10 per pupil per week.

When the clarification is provided, the Department of Education will contact all primary schools that are sanctioned to run summer programmes and will advise them of the position in relation to school meals funding.

Transport

- **Special Educational Needs (SEN) School Transport Scheme**
SEN Transport Scheme services may be available to pupils with complex needs that normally avail of the SEN Transport scheme. Where the transport is not available, grant funding will be provided to parents in the form of the Special Transport Grant (STG). This grant is paid by the Department to the parent following the completion of the programme.
- **Mainstream School Transport**
It is important to note the Department's Primary School Transport Scheme will not operate for the duration of the summer programmes in 2021. Where transport to and from a **primary summer programme** is identified as a barrier for certain pupils to attend the programme, schools may make their own local transport arrangements and claim the associated costs from the Department up to a maximum of €1,750 per week.

It is important to note that transport should only be arranged for those pupils who are already availing of school transport under the Department's Primary School Transport Scheme.

All claims in respect of transport costs must be accompanied by:

- the appropriate receipts e.g. private bus company receipts, taxi receipts.
- names of pupils who were provided with transport to and from the summer programme and
- confirmation that they are currently availing of the primary school transport scheme.

Training sessions for the delivery of the Literacy and Numeracy/Campaí Samhraidh Programme for DEIS primary schools will be hosted by Dublin West/Navan Education Centres at the end of June. Further details will issue to all participating schools.

Public Health Guidelines

Schools are required to operate summer programmes in accordance with any current public health advice and guidelines.

Resource allocation Appeals

If a schools wishes to appeal any aspect of the resource allocation granted to their school, they may do so by contacting schoolsummerprogramme@education.gov.ie setting out the basis of the appeal.

Appeals must be submitted no later than 5pm on **Friday 18 June**.

Duration and timing of summer programme in primary schools

The DEIS literacy and numeracy camp summer camp programme allows schools to choose to run up to 2 literacy and numeracy camps/Campaí Samhraidh of one weeks duration each.

All other programmes must run for a minimum of two weeks.

The Programme cannot be provided on Saturday or Sunday or a bank holiday.

All programmes may be run at any time during the school summer holidays in 2021.

Length of school day

The length of the school day for the Complex Needs/Inclusion Programme and Special Class Programme is aligned with the normal school day as outlined in Circular 11/95. You can access this circular on www.education.ie. The length of the school day should be consistent with the provisions of the above circular and the age profile of the participants unless otherwise stated. Further details in relation to the DEIS literacy and numeracy camps are provided in a programme handbook to schools.

Activities for the DEIS Literacy and Numeracy Camps will be provided for 22.5 hours over the course of the week

- The starting time for a camp is to be no later than 10 o'clock
- Four hours of instruction must be provided each day

- In addition to the four hours instruction, a total of 30 minutes is set aside each day for a fully-supervised lunch/break period

Irish Language

It is important that Irish is the sole language of communication in the Irish-medium programmes

Further Information and Queries

Summer Programme Information and Training Resources

All relevant information and training resources for the summer programme can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.ie/SummerProvision/>

All other queries can be directed to schoolsummerprogramme@education.gov.ie