






## Parent Information Leaflet for St. Kevin's Language Class

<p><b>Who attends Language Classes?</b></p> 	<p>Children who are of school age and have DLD (Developmental Language Disorder). The old term was 'Specific Speech and/or Language Impairment'. St. Kevin's Language Class is a Junior Class. This means that children who attend are usually aged 5 to 8 years. Children come to the Language Class because they need more support from a Speech Language Therapist and their teacher.</p>
<p><b>What is the Language Class?</b></p> 	<p>The Language Class is a <b><i>small class</i></b> within a mainstream school. The children have access to the the full curriculum, as they would in mainstream. We focus on supporting speech, language and communication development and strategies. The Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) based in the school gives therapy on a regular basis. The SLT sees children one-to-one, or in groups. A big part of therapy is working closely with parents and other professionals. The class has 7 places. Children's placements are reviewed every year. Children generally stay for 2 years.</p>
<p><b>Where are the Language Classes?</b></p> 	<p>St. Kevin's National School is located on Rathdown Road in Greystones, Co. Wicklow. The School Principal is Ms Corrina Bailey. The Language Class is run by a member of the school's teaching staff, and is supported by a Senior Speech and Language Therapist provided by HSE. <b>School Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stkevins.ie/">http://www.stkevins.ie/</a> <b>School Telephone: 01 2876660</b></p>

<p><b>Who can refer my child?</b></p> 	<p>Your local Speech and Language Therapist or Psychologist can talk through the referral with you. With your permission, the local SLT or Psychologist can refer your child to the School Principal of St. Kevin's National School.</p>
<p><b>What are the criteria for the classes?</b></p> 	<p>Your child's application will have to meet certain criteria which has been determined by the Department of Education and Skills and set out in circular 0038/2007. The referral must include a number of forms and reports from SLTs, Psychologists, Teachers and any other professionals, (particularly an Occupational Therapist, if possible).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A child must be at least 5 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> September of the year they start school.</li><li>• Your child must have a diagnosis of DLD given by the Speech and Language Therapist. Your local SLT can explain more to you about this.</li><li>• For a Language Class referral your child must meet the current DES criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- testing by a Psychologist, which shows that the child's non-verbal / performance intelligence quotient (IQ) is within the average range (score of 90 or above)</li><li>- testing by an SLT which shows that the child's speech and/or language skills are within the severe range.</li></ul></li><li>• Your child should have a hearing threshold for speech sounds (40dB or below).</li></ul>

**When do I refer my child and how do I find out if my child has a place?**



We accept applications up to the first of March – children start in the Language Class that Autumn. Due to the volume of applications, unfortunately, not everybody who applies can get a place. The Admissions Committee (School Principal, Language Class Teacher, Speech Language Therapy Manager from HSE, Language Class SLT and a Psychologist) meets by the middle of March each year.

1. We consider the applications that best fit the criteria from the Department of Education and Skills.
2. Applications are then sorted on a needs basis.
3. Offers are made in writing to successful applicants.
4. Where necessary, a waiting list is drawn up to accommodate unsuccessful applicants if a successful applicant, for whatever reason, decided not to take up their place.

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



Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that your child will get a place, this is because of the limited number of places available. If your child's application is unsuccessful, you will be contacted in writing. If unsuccessful, it is a good idea to discuss other options with your local SLT. Your child will still be eligible for Speech and Language Therapy in the community and possible extra help in their mainstream school. You and your SLT can re-apply for a place in the Language Class for the following year.

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

You will be contacted in writing and with the offer of a place in the Language Class. All necessary forms for enrolment in the class will be included in this communication. You and your child will be invited to come to an open day in the Language Class before the end of the current school year. You will meet



the current teacher, the Principal and the SLT. You will get to see the classroom and therapy room. We can answer your questions at the meeting. We ask you to make sure your child's current school keeps a place for your child to go back to. We ask that you talk this through with your current 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. Included in the forms mentioned earlier will be a form for this transport option. If you wish to avail of this service, **please sign the form and return it**. Before the start of the school year, a representative from Bus Eireann will contact you to let you know what time your child will be collected and dropped home each day. 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 you 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.

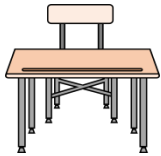
**How much will I need to be involved?**



If your child is offered a place in the Language Class, you will need to:

- attend parent meetings during the year
- come to Speech and Language Therapy sessions / meetings during the school day
- 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 their individual learning goals.
- Other times, the teacher and SLT work together with fun, learning games with the whole class.
- In the classroom, we support reading and learning the curriculum.
- We work to help your child use the language that they already have.
- We also help your child to develop social language (ie help 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 can be 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. Also, 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 s/he will join their mainstream class in St. Kevin's for some curriculum topics, activities or break times. Your child may also attend school ceremonies. You will need to tell us if you want your child to go to the mainstream class for religious instruction for his / her Holy Communion.

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



The placement is usually for two years but sometimes children go back to their old school at the end of their first year. This happens if we, with you, agree that your child no longer needs the place in the Language Class. If this is the case, we will meet with you to discuss what to do next. In exceptional circumstances, children can be kept for three years but this is rare. The class' Speech and Language Therapist will liaise with your local SLT to ensure your child is added back on their list. The Language Class SLT will always connect with your child's next school to offer support and information to his/her new teachers. Sometimes your child's new teacher is invited to visit the Language Class so they can see how to help your child.

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



Find out more at: [stkevins.ie](http://stkevins.ie)

See [www.ssli.ie](http://www.ssli.ie) (parent run website) for useful links.

<http://www.afasic.org.uk/resources/free-downloads/learning-about-impairments/>



Raising Awareness of DLD campaign, RADLD [facebook.com/radld.page/](https://www.facebook.com/radld.page/) or on [youtube.com/radld](https://www.youtube.com/radld)

<http://www.ican.org.uk/>

<http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/training-and-conferences/talk-to-your-baby>

[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)

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

<p>No I don't want to apply. What happens next?</p> 	<p>Your child stays in your local Speech and Language Therapy service. Check with your child's 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>