



### What is the DLD/SSD Class?

The DLD/SSD Class is a **small class** with 7 places in our school with a class teacher, Speech & Language Therapist (SLT) and a part-time special needs assistant.



The children have the same curriculum as they do in their own school but here, we focus on supporting speech, language and communication.

The SLT sees the children one-to-one, or in groups and works closely with parents/guardians and other professionals. Children's places in the class are reviewed every towards the end of each year and they usually stay for 2 years.

### Who attends DLD/SSD Classes?

Children who are of primary school age and have Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) or Speech Sound Disorder (SSD). Children come to the DLD/SSD Class because they need more support from a SLT and their teacher.

### What do Developmental Language Disorder and Speech Sound Disorder mean?

Developmental language disorder (DLD) is a condition where children have persistent problems understanding and/or using spoken language.

Speech sound disorder (SSD) describes persistent difficulties with pronouncing speech sounds, making a child's speech hard for others to understand compared to peers.

DLD and SSD have no known origin. This means that there is no obvious reason that explains these difficulties. For example, there is no hearing problem, physical disability or other diagnosis.

### When will my child return to their own school?

Most children stay for 2 years but sometimes children go back to their old school after 1 year. The DLD/SSD Class team will meet with you to talk about what is best for your child. When your child does leave, the team always link with your local SLT and your child's school and offer whatever support or information is needed.

### How will my child benefit from the DLD/SSD Class?

The DLD/SSD Class gives your child the chance to learn in a class that is adapted to their needs. The DLD/SSD Class can be very helpful for your child's learning, communication, confidence and well-being. We give them strategies that they can use throughout their lives.

### Will my child mix with other children in the school?

Yes! Your child will stay in the DLD/SSD Class for most of the school day but will play in the yard together with other classes. Sometimes (s)he will join their mainstream class in St. Kevin's for lessons, activities or break times. You will need to tell us if you want your child to go to the mainstream class for Catholic religious instruction.



### How do I make a referral?

With your permission, your SLT can refer your child to the DLD/SSD Class. S(He) can talk through the referral with you along with your child's current teacher.

You can look at the school's website [www.stkevins.ie](http://www.stkevins.ie) to find out more about the dates for applications.

### My child didn't get a place – what next?

1. Discuss other options with your child's SLT. Your child will still be on the list with their Speech and Language Therapist.
2. Discuss other options with your child's current teacher. Your child will still be able to get support in their school.
3. You can re-apply for a place in the DLD/SSD Class for the following year if you like.
4. You can appeal the decision (Section 29 appeal) via the appeals mechanism available in the Department of Education and Youth.



Your child's application has to meet certain criteria set down by the Dept. of Education (see Circular 0024/2025):



DLD or SSD of unknown origin where:

1. Your child's score is at or below a standard score of 78 on a standardised SLT assessment
2. Your child's difficulties are ongoing despite lots of support at home, from the SLT and in school.
3. Your child's learning, reading, writing and social relationships are all affected by their DLD/SSD.

The referral must include completed application forms from you, your SLT and your child's current teacher(s), along with any relevant reports from any other professionals, e.g. OT, Psychology.

After the Admissions Meeting, the principal of St Kevin's will contact you to let you know if your child got a place.

### Getting to and from St Kevin's



Bus Eireann operate a free bus/taxi service. You will get form for this with your enrolment forms from the principal. If you want to use this option, **please sign the form and return it**. You can get more information about this from the Department of Education School Transport Section, or from the principal in St Kevin's NS.



### My child got a place – what next?

1. Fill in and return all the enrolment forms – you will get these from the principal in St Kevin's NS when you get your letter offering your child a place.
2. Let your child's current school know and make sure that they keep a place open for your child to come back after their time in the DLD/SSD Class.
3. Come along to see the DLD/SSD Class before the end of the current school year. You will get an invitation to come along and meet the teacher, the Principal and the SLT and you will get to see the classroom and therapy room.
4. Once your child starts in the DLD/SSD Class they won't be seen by their local SLT. Don't worry, once (s)he finishes up here, we will make sure (s)he is referred to all the services/supports they need.
5. Like every school, you will need to attend parent meetings during the year, help you child complete their homework, make sure your child is in school every day and help us to set your child's learning goals.