



SCHOOL AND YOUR AUTISTIC CHILD

Talking to your local Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) can be helpful when thinking about a school for your child. The SENO can provide you with a lot of information and a list of local Schools with Autism classes but you will have to contact the schools directly yourself.

Preschool Options

Private Preschool

Preschool education in Ireland is free for two years.

- Children between 2 years and 8 months old and 5 years and 6 months old are eligible for this program, known as ECCE.
- AIM (Access and Inclusion Model) provides additional support for children with disabilities.
- The preschool will apply for these supports on behalf of the child.

Dept Of Ed Early Intervention Classes (EI)

These are early intervention classes for autistic children, which are part of primary school.

- Teaching ratio is 6:2:1 (6 children to 1 teacher and 2 Special Needs Assistants).
- Access to these classes requires a diagnostic report stating the need for EI class.
- Available from the ages of 3yrs - 6 yrs for 2 years.
- These are additional to 8 years of primary school.

Access a list of local EI Classes here:
<https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/>

Home Tuition

Home tuition which is accessed through The SENO is an option for children if:

- There is no appropriate early intervention place available.
- Children aged 2.5 - 3 years old can access 10 hrs of tuition per week.
- Children over 3 years old can access 20 hrs of tuition per week.
- Home tuition hours are available in conjunction with ECCE.
- Parents are responsible for finding the tutor.

Apply for home tuition here:
<https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/home-tuition/>

School Options

Mainstream

Many Children with additional needs attend mainstream schools with differing levels of support.

- Teachers can adapt lessons to different learning styles.
- Schools can apply for the necessary resources to support children with additional needs.

Mainstream SNA Support

Some students with additional needs attend mainstream classes, but with additional supports.

- Extra teaching support may be available from a dedicated support teacher.
- Care support may be provided by access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA).
- SNA's ensure a supportive learning environment while helping reinforce the curriculum under the direction of the class teacher.

Autism Classes

Many mainstream schools have autism classes. Access to these classes requires a recommendation.

- Teaching ratio is 6:2:1 (6 children to 1 teacher and 2 Special Needs Assistants)
- Some Children attending autism classes may integrate into some mainstream subjects.
- The Autism Class should be included in all school activities and life.

Access a list of local Schools with Autism Classes here :
<https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/>

Special Schools

Special Schools are also an option for autistic students.

- Most special schools are from the age of 4 to 18.
- Small class sizes and tailored activities help meet students needs.
- Some special schools are autism specific.

Access a list of local Special Schools here:
<https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/>