



# POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL AND YOUR AUTISTIC CHILD

**Good transition planning involves the school and parents working together. As part of the transition, your child's primary school should request an updated report from NEPS, which may take time or not be available, due to limited resources. This report is crucial for determining the most suitable type of school placement and support.**

**To avoid delays, you may opt for an evaluation from a private Educational Psychologist. Start discussing the NEPS assessment with the school before your child finishes 5th class.**

## School Options

Mainstream	Mainstream SNA Support	Autism Classes	Special Schools
<p>Many Children with additional needs attend mainstream schools with differing levels of support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers can adapt lessons to different learning styles.</li> <li>Additional supports in the form of exemptions, reasonable accommodations and assistive technology can be accessed in mainstream.</li> </ul>	<p>Some students with additional needs attend mainstream classes, but with additional supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource teachers may offer extra teaching help.</li> <li>Care support may be provided by access to an SNA.</li> <li>SNAs assist students to access the curriculum.</li> <li>An educational psychologist's assessment is required to access continued SNA support, exemptions, reasonable accommodations and assistive technology.</li> </ul>	<p>Many mainstream schools offer autism classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Autism Class should have access to all school activities.</li> <li>Recommendation needed to access an ASD Class.</li> <li>Teaching ratio is 6:2:1 (6 students per 1.5 teachers and 2 SNAs).</li> <li>Students can integrate into mainstream classes.</li> <li>Students can take Junior Cert at Levels 1 or 2 (Learning Programs) or Level 3 (Established).</li> <li>In Senior Cycle, students can pursue Leaving Cert, LCVP, or LCA.</li> </ul> <p>Find local Schools with Autism Classes here : <a href="https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/">https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/</a></p>	<p>Special Schools are also an option for autistic students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most special schools are from the age of 4 to 18.</li> <li>Small class sizes and tailored activities help meet students needs.</li> <li>Some special schools are autism specific.</li> <li>Students can take Junior Cert at Levels 1 or 2 (Learning Programs) or Level 3 (Established).</li> <li>Many Special Schools offer QQI certification or a similar qualification as well as the Leaving Cert Applied during senior cycle.</li> </ul> <p>Access a list of local Special Schools here: <a href="https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/">https://www.autismsupportlouth.com/resources-directory/education/</a></p>

## Other Considerations

### Supports and Accommodations

Some students with additional needs will require additional supports. Available supports in secondary school include:

- Resource Teachers: Support students with additional needs in mainstream allocated based on school size and profile.
- School Transportation: Available for special schools or ASD classes.
- Assistive Technology: Aids students to access the curriculum, obtained through a grant with assessments and approval required.
- Reasonable Accommodations Support students during state exams. Requests are made through the school for Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate.

### Admissions Process, Acceptance and Appeals

- Annual Admissions Notice provides **key dates** and procedures. School's Admission Policy sets acceptance criteria.
- Schools cannot reject students based on factors, such as disability or additional needs.
- Apply to multiple schools to increase chances of acceptance.
- Appeal refusals through school board review or Section 29 process.
- Contact local SENO or The Education Welfare Officer in Tusla for support if facing difficulties finding a suitable school.

Learn more about the appeals process here:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/90de23-appeal-against-permanent-exclusion-suspension-or-refusal-to-enrol/>

### Staying Organised and Prepared

- Start early.**
- Prepare a lever arch file with dividers.
- Contact The SENO.
- For access to an SNA, ASD Class, or Special School applications, an assessment by an Educational Psychologist recommending placement type is required.
- Explore school options through website research and look beyond local schools.
- Get the admission policy from school websites or request it directly.
- Tailor questions to your child's needs.
- Organise file sections for each school, with research notes, questions, and application copies.
- Keep copies of official documents and assessments; store originals securely.
- Get help from support groups or contact Trish our Parent Information Officer at 0860787356 or [trish@autismsupportlouth.com](mailto:trish@autismsupportlouth.com)