



**An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
um Oideachas Speisialta**
National Council
for Special Education



February 2025 Newsletter:

Welcome to our latest issue of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) Newsletter.

Our newsletters aims to keep you updated on the NCSE's latest news, projects, and professional learning opportunities. If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, [sign up here](#).

NCSE Relate is a new resource designed to support schools to reframe behaviour through a regulation first approach, placing student wellbeing and engagement at the centre of education.



NCSE Relate

A Regulation First Approach to Reframing Behaviour and Supporting Student Engagement and Participation

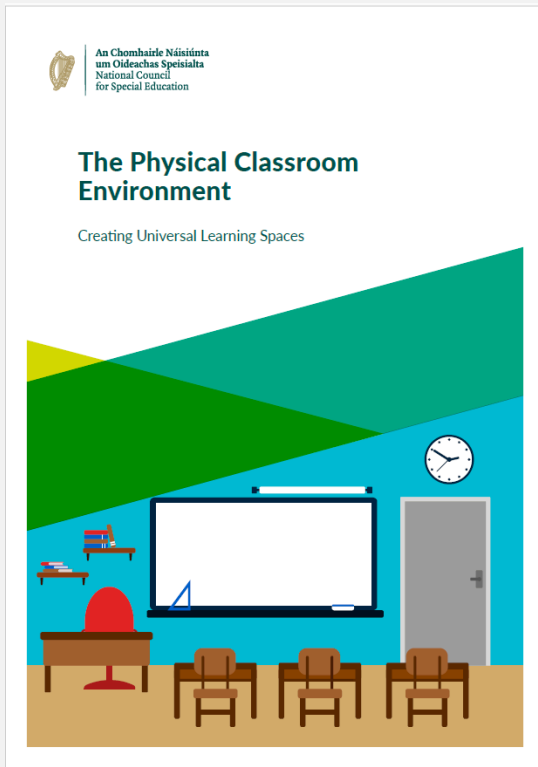


Developed collaboratively by educators and therapists, it empowers school staff to see behaviour as a form of communication, enabling proactive and relational supports to all students. Grounded in **universal design for learning (UDL)** and relational pedagogy, Relate offers practical strategies, reflective tools, and guiding principles to create inclusive, student centred learning environments.

Whether you're supporting individual needs or enhancing whole class engagement, Relate equips you to foster stronger relationships, reduce barriers and build a culture of connection and growth in your classroom. Relate will launch on 28th February and copies will be available from that date at www.ncse.ie/relate.

'An Introduction to NCSE Relate' information sessions will be rolled out in local education centres and can be booked on our [website](#). Whole school seminars will also be available to support whole staff learning, request a whole school seminar at <https://ncse.freshdesk.com/support/login>.

The NCSE Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists have launched two new teacher resources:



- **The Physical Classroom Environment: Creating Universal Learning Spaces** a comprehensive guide designed to help teachers create inclusive and adaptable learning environments that benefit all students. It explores a range of evidence-informed strategies and practical tools that teachers can easily implement in their classrooms. By focusing on the physical environment, the booklet aims to enhance student participation, reduce barriers to learning and create a sense of belonging for every student.
- **Visual Supports within an Inclusive Learning Environment** this booklet includes information, strategies and resources to assist teachers in the use of visuals to support all students' communication and participation in school. When visuals are implemented in all classrooms and shared spaces as part of a Total Communication Approach, they support the creation and promotion of an inclusive learning environment where students are better supported to understand and communicate throughout the day.

These resources were developed with contributions from NCSE advisors and input from schools. They are available to download from here: [New Therapy Developed Resources for Teachers](#)

Teacher Professional Learning

Our Teacher Professional Learning(TPL) courses will continue for 2025:

A full list of all Teacher Professional Learning courses can be found on via our website click here: [NCSE Event Catalogue](#)

A PDF version of our calendar can also be downloaded [here](#).



Irish Sign Language

- Irish Sign Language is the third recognised language of Ireland since December 14th 2017. This beautiful language is the first and/or preferred language of 5000 Deaf people in Ireland and approximately 40,000 people in general can communicate in ISL (family, friends, co-workers, etc).
- NCSE provides ISL supports to schools and families through the Visiting Teacher Service for CYP who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and by the introduction of the new ISL Advisor & ISL Specialist Classroom Support (SCS) roles last year in 2024.
- ISL Advisors provide support to schools who have students where their primary means of communication is ISL through the Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) ISL beginner courses, school support visits and drop-in call clinics for teachers.
- NCSE ISL-SCS staff are based in a school full time where they provide access to the curriculum through ISL and to also build ISL capacity across the school
- The video link below is the alphabet in Irish Sign Language. It is a one-handed manual alphabet, using your dominant hand. Have a go and try sign your name with a colleague in the office or over a Microsoft Teams call today.
- See the NCSE YouTube channel for more ISL videos or reach out to our NCSE Irish Sign Language Advisors – Mary Guest & Jenny Healy for any ISL queries.
- **Click here to view one of our videos on the ISL alphabet.**



Don't miss out on future updates, events, and professional learning opportunities from the NCSE

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