



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



September 2025 Newsletter:

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

Our newsletter 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](#).

17^{July} Our 2025/2026 Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) calendar is now available!

[Visit our calendar](#) to secure your spot!

Get ready for an exciting academic year of learning. Our TPL calendar is packed with enriching sessions, practical workshops and opportunities to support your professional journey.

We are delighted to announce that the new NCSE support line is now live!

Whether you have questions, concerns or simply need guidance, our dedicated team is there to help. ☎
Give us a call on **01 603 3346**.



NCSE Occupational Therapy has launched an updated edition of **Sensory Spaces in Schools:**

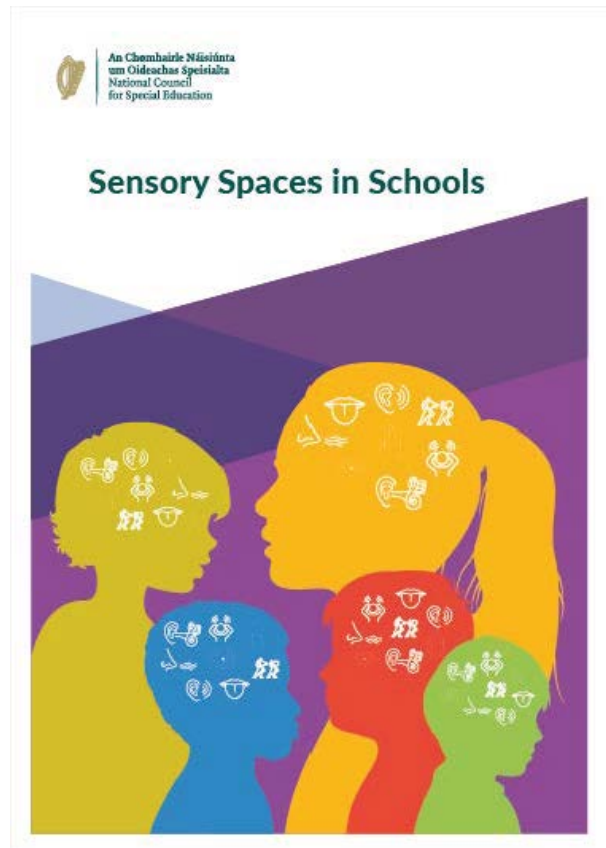
This updated booklet equips school staff with the practicalities of setting up a sensory space.

It supports teachers to reflect on the role of a sensory space and provides clear guidance on how they can be used most effectively.

Through a blend of theory and practice, our updated resource empowers teachers with practical evidence-informed approaches to supporting sensory differences, and to reflect on how sensory spaces and the adults within a whole-school, holistic approach can support all students' regulation needs.

To check out this resource, click on the link below or find it on the NCSE website:

[NCSE Sensory Spaces in Schools Booklet](#)



Introducing Parents Notify!

- The NCSE has launched **Parents Notify**, an online form that enables parents and guardians to inform us that they are seeking a special class or special school placement for their child for **September 2026**.
- This form is designed to assist the NCSE in identifying and planning for the needs of students who may require specialist educational placements.

[Notify NCSE – Special Class/Special School Placement](#)

The first step for your child's Special School or Special Class placement for September 2026

SUBMIT YOUR FORM BY
1ST OCTOBER 2025



What is Parents Notify?

Parents Notify is an online form to let the NCSE know that you are seeking a place for your child in a Special Class or Special School. Once the form is submitted, the NCSE will review your information. If the reports meet the criteria, you will receive an eligibility letter, which is required when applying for a Special Class or Special School placement. If you already have an eligibility letter, you don't need to complete the form. Please contact your SENO for an updated eligibility letter. If you are unsure whether you need to fill out the form, please [contact your local SENO](#).



What You'll Need

To complete the online form, you'll need:

- Professional reports supporting a placement
- Your child's PPS number
- Date of birth
- Eircode



What Happens Next?

Once you've submitted the form:

- You'll receive confirmation.
- We'll check eligibility for special school or Special Class placement.
- Your local SENO will contact you directly.

Submitting this form is not the same as applying to a school for placement!



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NCSE Podcasts!

We are very excited to announce the launch of our NCSE Spotify account. This is our newest adventure where everyone can easily access podcasts covering key topics, projects and the latest work of the National Council for Special Education.

Whether you're a teacher, advocate or simply curious about the work done by NCSE staff and the impact it has on teachers and students alike.

Our podcasts offer in-depth discussions, knowledge and insights into the important issues shaping special education today.

Have a listen to our [playlist of relevant podcast episodes here!](#)



NCSE Autism Supports:

We have created a [useful leaflet](#) to assist school staff in accessing the NCSE's support services when establishing and running autism classes.

The NCSE offers school visits from autism advisors, informative seminars on relevant topics, and a Community of Practice for sharing best practices.

These resources help schools create effective and inclusive learning environments for autistic students.

For an example of our resources see our video on [Autism terminology](#)

A full list of all Online NCSE resources can be found on our webpage - [click here](#).

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (TPL)

All teachers can apply for a range of seminars through the NCSE website, these include:

- ★ **ENGAGEMENT, LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION**
 - Supporting Inclusion and Communication for Neurodivergent Students
 - The SCERTS Model (Social Communication Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support)
 - Autism: A Learning Journey
 - Introduction to DBE@Home™
 - Intensive Interaction
- ★ **ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING**
 - Planning for Autistic Students (Post-Primary)
 - Preparation for Teaching and Learning for Autistic Students (Primary)
 - The SCERTS Model (Social Communication Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support)
- ★ **VISUAL STRUCTURED TEACHING METHODOLOGY**
 - Visual Structured Teaching Methodologies
 - Fundamentals of Structured TEACCHing
 - 5-Step In-Phase TEACCH
- ★ **UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL DIFFERENCES**
 - Social Narratives
 - Understanding Social Differences – A Neuroaffirmative Approach
- ★ **REGULATION**
 - Autism: A Matter of Support
 - Reflections on Emotional Regulation and Wellbeing Supports
 - A Sensory Perspective on Learning and Participation

AUTISM GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Published in 2022, the NCSE are one of the co-authors of this Department of Education resource. This guidance document has been developed as a resource for school leaders, teachers and support staff to respond to the needs of all students with autism across the continuum of provision. Schools can also request Crisis Pack assistance from an advisor through the School Support portal on the NCSE website.




WHAT ARE THE TRAINING NEEDS OF TEACHERS IN MY SCHOOL?

Principals are encouraged to engage with appendix 8 of the Autism Good Practice Guidance for Schools (page 202) to provide a school self-evaluation and identification of teacher professional learning requirements in relation to education of autistic students.

THE ROLE OF AN ADVISOR

The role of the NCSE advisor is to build teacher capacity in the areas of teaching, learning, planning and assessment through best practice and use of the Autism Good Practice Guidance and NCSE Relate. An advisor offers Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) through seminars, Communities of Practice and school support both virtually and in-person.




COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

All teachers in special classes for autistic students are invited to a local community of practice to embed practice and make links with peers.




FURTHER SUPPORTS

NCSE provides a range of supports to school communities opening special classes for autistic students. The NCSE support highlighted in the pamphlet along with booklets and application forms can be accessed on the NCSE website or conveniently through the NCSE Pocket via this QR code.




NCSE RELATE

NCSE Relate is a resource to support school staff to understand and reform behaviour. Relate puts relationships at the heart of teaching and learning, with an emphasis on understanding and connection. The resource takes a regulation-first approach meaning that relationships, the environment and the individual are central to support. Relate shifts the focus from what is happening to why it is happening. It aims to apply supports and remove barriers.



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NCSE SUPPORTS FOR NEW AUTISM CLASSES



NCSE SCHOOL SUPPORTS

On the opening of an Autism class schools can avail of a number of supports from the NCSE via the School Support Portal. These include the following:

- The support of an Autism Advisor throughout the first year
- An Exceptional Closure Day for all school staff
- Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)



NCSE SEMINARS FOR PRINCIPALS

- Seminar for Principals establishing New Special Classes for Autistic Students
- Seminar for Principals of Established Special Classes
- Leading an Inclusive School

NCSE SEMINARS FOR TEACHERS

All teachers in schools opening their first special class for autistic students can apply to attend either of the following:

- Introduction to Autism Summer Course
- 4 Day Introduction to Autism Seminar

When subsequent classes are opened, teachers can apply to attend either of the following:

- 1 Day Introduction to Autism
- 2 Day Introduction to Autism

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

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