

**Parent Information Leaflet for Junior Specific Speech & Language Disorder (SSLD) Class,
St. Marnock's NS, Strand Rd., Portmarnock, Co. Dublin.**

Please read through this leaflet and talk about it with your child's Speech & Language Therapist (SLT). After you have read the information your SLT will ask you to sign the form saying if you would like an application to be made to the Language Class. You will be given this form to keep and the original signed copy will be kept on your child's SLT file.

<p>Who attends Language Classes?</p> 	<p>Children of school age and who have DLD (Developmental Language Disorder). DLD is the up to date term for 'Specific Speech and/or Language Disorder or Impairment'. (SSLD or SSLI)</p> <p>Children come to the SSLD Class because they have a diagnosis of 'DLD' in the severe range and need more support from the SLT (Speech and Language Therapist) and the Teacher.</p>
<p>What is the Language Class?</p> 	<p>The Language Class is a <u>small class</u> within a mainstream school. The Class has places for seven children. The children have access to the normal subjects but the focus is on supporting speech, language and communication development. Irish is not part of the Language Class curriculum. The SLT sees children individually or in small groups on a regular basis. An important part of therapy is working closely with parents, the Language Class Teacher and other professionals. A place in the Language Class is offered initially for 1 year. Some children may be offered a 2nd year based on certain criteria.</p>

<p>Where is the Language Class?</p> 	<p>The Junior Language Class for where you live is based in:</p> <p>1. Junior Language Class: St. Marnock's NS, Strand Rd., Portmarnock, Co. Dublin. School Principal: Ms. Sinéad Trimble .Tel: 01-8462060 Email:stmarnocksns@gmail.com Website: www.stmarnocksns.ie</p> <p>Your SLT is talking to you about referring your child to the Junior Language Class in St. Marnock's. In the event that your child is eligible for a place in the class but is not offered a place due to insufficient places available you can give your consent for your child to be considered for a place in Stapolin ETNS Senior Language Class. Your child's age and class level will also be taken into consideration and the School Principal would contact you to discuss this first.</p> <p>2. Senior Language Class: Stapolin Educate Together NS (ETNS), Myrtle Road, The Coast, Dublin 13. School Principal: Clodagh Farrell. Tel: 01-5241618. Email: principal@stapolinetns.ie Website: www.stapolinetns.ie</p>
<p>Who can refer my child?</p> 	<p>Your local SLT or Psychologist can talk to you about referring your child to the Language Class. With your permission, they can refer your child to the Language Class. The referral must include a number of forms and reports from parents, SLTs, Psychologists, Teachers and other professionals.</p>
<p>What are the criteria for the classes?</p>	<p>Your child will have to meet certain criteria decided on by the Department of Education (DE) in circular 0038/2007 and local criteria also. Your child must have a diagnosis of DLD by an SLT. Your local SLT can explain more to you about this.</p> <p><u>For Language Class referral your child must meet the current DE criteria which are:</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - testing by a Psychologist, which shows that the child's non-verbal / performance intelligence quotient (IQ) is within the average range (score of 90 or above) - testing by an SLT which shows that the child's speech and/or language skills are within the severe range (minus 2 standard deviations or more on standard speech and language assessments) - the child's difficulties are not caused by a hearing difficulty. The hearing threshold for speech-related frequencies should be 40 decibels. -emotional or behavioural disorders or a physical disability are not considered to be the primary causes. <p><u>There are also local criteria for referral to the Junior Language Class in St. Marnock's NS. Some of these are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -for the Junior Language Class applications are accepted for children who are in Junior Infants; Senior Infants or 1st class by the closing date of the year of referral. -The child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral. Your local HSE SLT will tell you if you live in the catchment area for the classes. <p>For a full list of all criteria see www.stmarnocksns.ie 'Admissions Policy for Specific Speech & Language Disorder Class'</p>
<p>When do I refer my child and how do I find out if my child has a place?</p>	<p>The closing date for applications is the 23rd February for the Junior Language Class in St. Marnock's NS. Children who are offered places start in the Language Class in September of that year. The Admissions Advisory Committee meets in March each year to look at the referrals. The committee</p>

	<p>members are: School Principal, Language Class Teacher, SLT Manager, Language Class SLT and Principal Psychologist.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initially the referrals are examined to see if they meet the criteria set by the Department of Education and the local criteria. 2. Applications that meet the DE and local criteria are then discussed by the Admissions Advisory Committee in detail; and considered in order of greatest need for a place in the Language Class. 3. Letters informing parents of the outcome of the application are then sent by the School Principal 4. A waiting list of eligible applicants is formed in case a place is not taken up.
<p>What should I do if my child is NOT offered a place?</p> 	<p>Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that your child will get a Language Class place. This is because of the limited number of places available each year or it may be that your child does not meet the DES and local criteria. If your child does not get a place, the School Principal will send you a letter. You can talk through options for your child with your local SLT. Your child will still be able to attend the local SLT service and will continue to have support teaching in their mainstream class. You and your SLT can re-apply for a place in the Language Class the following year. Your SLT will tell you if new assessments are needed and if your child is still eligible for the Language Class.</p>
<p>What should I do if my child is offered a place?</p> 	<p>The school will contact you and ask you to sign and fill in some forms. You and your child will be invited to meet the Language Class Teacher, the Principal and the SLT in June. You will get to see the classroom, the therapy room and the rest of the school. We can answer your questions at the visit. We ask you to make sure your child's <i>current school keeps a place for your child to go back to after their time in the Language Class.</i> If your child is offered a place make sure to talk to your child's current</p>

	<p>School Principal about this. If your child is offered and accepts a place, he or she will not attend the local SLT service for the time that they are in the Language Class.</p>
<p>How will my child get to and from the Language Class?</p> 	<p>Bus Eireann operate a free bus / taxi service for the Department of Education. The school will ask you to sign a form at time of enrolment. At the end of August, you will be informed what time the bus will come to your house. There is a bus driver and an escort on each bus/taxi. When school starts, a bus will pick up your child from your home every morning and drop them home every day after school. You must make sure that you are at home when your child is being collected and dropped home. <u>Further details:</u> DE School Transport Section, Portlaoise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly Tel: 0506 24351/2/3/4/5/6.</p>
<p>How much will I need to be involved?</p> 	<p>If your child is offered a place in the Language Class, you will need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be available for parent meetings & Speech and Language Therapy sessions - Help your child to complete SLT and Class homework - Make sure your child is ready for early morning Taxi pick up. - Make sure your child is in school every day - Help us to set your child's learning goals
<p>What happens in the Language Class?</p>	<p>During your child's placement, you and your child, along with the Teacher, SLT and school staff all work together. We all give support to your child in different ways. The SLT sees each child on average a few times a week. Sometimes we run small groups. We might see your child for one to one therapy. Other times, the Teacher and SLT work together with the whole class. In the classroom, we give support for</p>

	<p>language, literacy and learning the curriculum. We work in a variety of ways to help your child develop their speech, language and communication skills.</p>
<p>How will my child benefit?</p> 	<p>Your support is needed for your child to get the full benefit from the Language Class. Your child's DLD cannot be 'fixed'. Your child may always have some problems with understanding and talking, but coming to the Language Class is very helpful for your child's learning, communication, confidence and wellbeing. We teach them some ways to cope that they can use throughout their lives. This placement gives your child an opportunity to learn in a small class that is adapted to their Speech & Language needs.</p>
<p>Will my child mix with other children in the school?</p> 	<p>Your child will stay in the Language Class for most of the school day. They will have outdoor yard time also. They may be integrated with other pupils for some subjects or activities.</p>
<p>When will my child return to his/her own school?</p> 	<p>The placement in the Language Class is offered initially for one year. Some children may be offered a second year. The Teacher & SLT will discuss this with you during your child's first year. Before your child finishes in the Language Class we contact your local SLT Service. We tell them what is happening and ask them to put your child's name back on their list. The Language Class SLT & Teacher will always connect with your child's next school to offer support and information to his/her new teachers.</p>

<p>No I don't want to apply. What happens next?</p> 	<p>Your child stays in your local SLT service. Check with your local school principal. Your child may be able to get support teaching hours at school. If you change your mind you and your SLT may wish to apply next year for the Language Class. Your child's SLT will need to arrange up to date assessments to make sure that your child continues to meet the DES criteria for Language Class and the local criteria. See page 7 of this leaflet now.</p>
<p>Yes, I want to apply. What happens next?</p> 	<p>Your speech and language therapist will explain what assessments and paperwork are needed. You will be asked to indicate if you wish to proceed with the application or not by signing below.</p>



Yes, I give my permission/ consent to apply to the language class for my child.

Signed _____

Date: _____



No, I do not give my permission/ consent to apply to the language class for my child.

Signed _____

Date: _____

<p>Where can I find out more information?</p> 	<p>To find out more about DLD:</p> <p>www.iaslt.ie: 'Supporting Children with Development Language Disorder in Ireland'. 2017</p> <p>www.radld.org Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder.</p> <p>To find out more about St. Marnock's NS see website: www.stmarnockns.ie</p>
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The original signed copy of this form will be retained in your child's HSE SLT File.