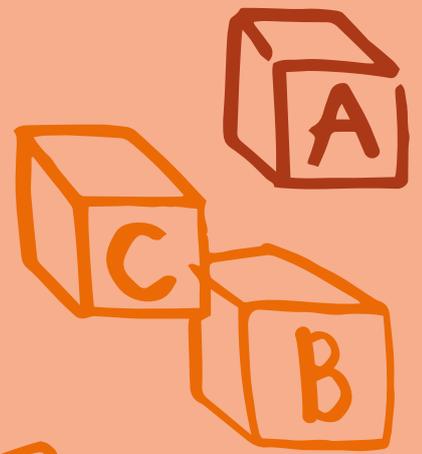




# My right to education



## Chapter 2



## 2.1 General

### Do I have a right to education?

Yes. All children and young people in Ireland have the right to access free primary education. This right is protected under the Irish Constitution and Irish law.

The Government is required to make sure that everyone living in Ireland is guaranteed a certain standard and level of education that meets their needs and abilities. This right is generally defined as covering primary and second-level education.



## 2.2 Early learning and care, and school-aged childcare

### What early learning and childcare is available for children before starting primary school?

A large number of early learning and care services operate across the country. These include care provided outside anyone's home like crèches and preschools; or home-based childminders.

Early learning and childcare services may be run privately for profit; while community-based ones are run not for profit.

All early learning and care services provided outside a home must register with the Early Years Inspectorate of Tusla. Childminders minding four or more pre-school aged children must also register with Tusla. Childminders minding three or fewer children do not have to register.

See [Tusla's website](#) for the list of registered services.

The main types of childcare service provided outside a home are:

- full-time – more than five hours per day
- part-time – more than 3.5 hours but less than five hours per day
- sessional – 3.5 hours per day at the most.

Not all services offer all three types of care. Childminders, who provide a childcare service from their own home for payment, can do so:

- full-time
- part-time
- for times and hours agreed with parents.

If you would like more information or help to find a centre or childminder close to you, you can contact your local [City or County Childcare Committee](#), see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

You can also find information from [Barnardos](#) on how to choose an early education and care setting that is right for your child, see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

## What is the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) – ‘Free preschool’?

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is also known as ‘Free preschool’. It provides pre-school places to all children:

- aged between two years and eight months and until they start primary school, or
- not older than five years and six months.

It is free of charge to parents.

Entry to preschool is based on your child’s date of birth in relation to the programme year. The year is from September to June. The age your child is in September determines whether or not they can go to preschool. To find out if and when your child is eligible you can go to the [Department of Children and Youth Affairs Online Calculator](#).

The scheme allows your child to attend, for free, a preschool that is taking part in the Tusla-registered preschool service. They may go for three hours a day, five days a week, for 38 weeks of the year.

If your child attends the childcare service for extra hours, you will have to pay for these extra hours in the normal way. Providers can also ask for a refundable deposit to keep an ECCE Programme place for a child.

If you would like more information about how to access the programme, you can contact your local [City or County Childcare Committee](#), see chapter 10 ‘where can I go for help’ for details.

## What childcare is available for children after starting primary school?

Regulated school-age childcare is provided in varied places:

- childcare centres can cater for children from birth to 15 years
- a childminder’s home
- some childcare services cater only for school-age children.

Centre-based services may be on or off school premises. A school-age childcare service is expected to meet children’s need for rest, relaxation and recreation after school and in non-term time.

Childcare services for school-age children may be run privately for-profit or are community-based and are run for no profit. Some centres will pick children up after school and bring them to the childcare centre. For information on what services are available you should check with your service provider.

If you would like more information or help to find a school-aged childcare service, you can contact your local [City or County Childcare Committee](#).

## What financial supports can I access to help with the fees charged by my child's early childhood education and care or school-age childcare service?

The ECCE (preschool) scheme is free. Parents do not have to make any contribution to this unless they need extra additional hours.

National childcare subsidies are available to help parents pay for their child to take part in early learning and care and school-age childcare services that are registered with Tusla (see below).

### Childcare subsidies

Until October 2019, the following childcare subsidies are available to parents.

- All parents are entitled to a non-means tested subsidy for children aged from 24 weeks until they are first eligible for the ECCE (preschool) programme.
- Parents who receive certain State supports (for example, a medical card or a social welfare payment) may be entitled to other childcare subsidies. See the [Department of Youth and Child Affairs \(DCYA\) website](#) for further details.

For more information, see the [National Childcare Scheme website](#).

From October 2019, parents will have a statutory (legal) entitlement to a:

- non-means tested subsidy for all children aged between six months and three years attending registered childcare, or an
- income-assessed subsidy towards the cost of registered childcare for a child from age six months to 15 years of age.

You will need to apply online and to have a verified MyGovID to apply.

MyGovID is a single account that lets you use services from many government departments in Ireland, you can find out how to get a MyGovID on the [MyGovID website](#). There will be a paper based application process in operation also.

For more information, see the [National Childcare Scheme website](#).

The subsidy is always paid directly to childcare providers and subtracted from the fee for parents.

If you would like more information on the different subsidies and to get support to access them, contact your local [City or County Childcare Committee](#).

## What extra supports are available if my child has a disability?

The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) provides supports designed to enable children with disabilities to:

- access the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) in mainstream pre-school settings.
- take part fully alongside other children.

The AIM model offers tailored, practical supports based on a child's need and does not require a formal diagnosis of disability.

You can apply for AIM supports through your pre-school provider. They can apply, in partnership with you, for targeted AIM supports for a child.

Information and guidance on AIM is available from your local City and County Childcare Committee and from the [AIM website](#).

There are two additional supports for a child with autism:

- 'early intervention' classes around the country for children with autism from three years of age
- access to home tuition for children with autism from two and a half years of age and up until they start school, ECCE or early intervention class.

## Where can I go if I have a concern or complaint about the early childhood care and education or school-age childcare services that my child receives?

The childcare service provider must manage and examine complaints. Wherever possible you should bring your complaint directly to them.

Your early learning and care provider must have a comprehensive complaints policy in place. This policy will outline how your concern will be managed. If you have a complaint, you should:

- ask for a copy of the complaints policy
- put your concerns in writing to the childcare provider
- ask that the childcare provider deals with your concerns as detailed in that policy.

You may be unhappy with their response or feel you cannot bring the matter to your provider directly. If so, you can contact the Early Years Inspectorate in Tusla by phone or by filling out the form on the [Tusla website](#).

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate will let you know they have received your complaint and if they have accepted your concern or not. The Inspectorate does not investigate individual concerns or complaints so you will not receive an outcome or a decision on your particular issue. The information that you send to the Inspectorate will help them when they inspect services and evaluate if the service is being operated according to regulations.

Where can I go if I am concerned about the protection and welfare of a child in early childhood education and care, or school-age childcare services?

See chapter 4 'my right to protection from harm' for more details.

## 2.3 School attendance

### Do I have to go to school?

Yes. You must go to school from the age of six until you are 16 years old, or until you have finished three years of secondary school, whichever occurs later. The only exception is if you are being educated at home. You must be at least four years of age at the start of the school year to begin school.

### Do I have a right to be taught at home?

Your parent or guardian can choose to educate you at home. To do this, they must register you with Tusla's Alternative Education Assessment and Registration Service. The service will work with your parent or guardian to make sure that your education meets the required standard. You can find more information about this on the [Tusla website](#).

### Do I have to go to school every day?

Yes. Your parent or guardian must make sure that you go to school every day. They must tell the school and give a reason if they know you are going to be absent or when you come back from being absent.

### What happens if I am sick or have other reasons for not going to school?

If you are unable to attend school, your parent or guardian should contact the school, preferably in writing, to explain why. All schools have an attendance strategy. If your school is concerned about your attendance, they will follow the steps laid out in the strategy. If necessary they will refer your non-attendance to Tusla's Educational Welfare Services.

If you miss 20 or more days in a school year or if your school is concerned that you are missing too many days, the school must tell Tusla's Educational Welfare Services. If there is no clear reason for your absence, the agency may send someone to visit your parent or guardian to work out how to improve your school attendance.



## 2.4 Choosing a school and school admission

### Can I choose which school I want to attend?

You do not have the right to choose which school you attend. Your parent or guardian will usually decide which school to apply to.

### Does a school have to take me?

You have no absolute right to attend the school of your parents' choice, but the State must provide you with a school near your home that meets your parents' or guardian's religious or beliefs. Schools do not have to admit a child if there are no places available. Schools must follow the school's admissions policy when allocating places.

### What rules must the school follow when enrolling students?

Each school must have an admissions policy, which is available to the public. In general, schools cannot refuse to admit you based on any of the following equality grounds:

- gender
- marital or civil status of your parent
- family status, for example if you are part of a one parent family
- sexual orientation
- religion
- disability
- race
- membership of the Traveller community.

There are some exceptions. For example, girls' schools are entitled to admit only girls. The same applies to boys' schools. Schools can no longer use religion as a selection criterion in school admissions, even when they are oversubscribed, except in the case of schools that provide religious instruction for minority faiths like Church of Ireland, Jewish or Muslim schools as it would be difficult for them to access a school that offered this instruction.

## How do I apply to enrol my child in school?

You can apply for school places any time during the school year. You should always apply in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Management. If the school has an application form, you should apply using this form – it may be an online form. You should always date the letter of application and keep a copy of the application and any documents you submit.

## Do I have a right to complain if my child is refused admission to a school?

Yes. A school can only refuse admission to a child, in accordance with the school's published Admissions Policy. A school cannot refuse to enrol a child based on the equality grounds mentioned above.

If a school refuses to enrol your child, you may appeal the decision to the school's Board of Management. If this is unsuccessful, you can appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills.

The Child and Family Education Welfare Service is available to advise any parent or guardian wishing to make an appeal. You can also ask for help from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to complain to the [Work Place Relations Commission](#) or the [Ombudsman for Children](#). For more information, see the [Department of Education and Skills website](#).

## 2.5 School curriculum and exams

### Who decides what I learn at school?

The Minister for Education and Skills sets the curriculum (the subjects to be taught). They take into account the advice of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. Your school and teachers decide what you will learn from that curriculum every day at school. Curriculum arising from the characteristic spirit of the school must be taught for 30 minutes each day at primary level, for example religion. The patron, the body who establishes the school, decides what type of content this should be.

### Do I have a right to choose my own subjects at school?



For your first eight years in school (from junior infants to sixth class), you will study the set curriculum.

In secondary school you will be able to choose certain subjects within the curriculum. However, you must study English, Mathematics and Irish. You can get an exemption from studying Irish in certain circumstances. For more information go to the [Curriculum Online website](#), see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

### Do I have to study religion at school?

No, but you must study religion unless your parent or guardian says you do not have to. If you are over the age of 18 you can decide for yourself. If you do not share the religion of your school, or do not have a religion, you do not have to attend religious instruction. Your parent or guardian can ask that you do not take part in this class and the school must agree to this.

If you belong to a different religion from that of your school, the school does not have to provide you with instruction in your own religion.

For those who do not want religious instruction, Community Post Primary Schools and Education and Training Board (ETB) post primary schools must offer an alternative subject or subjects. The school must let parents know that such alternative tuition is available. You and your parents must be asked to choose between religious instruction and the alternative subject or subjects offered by your school.

## Do I have to do homework?

Yes. Each school sets its own rules and policies for homework and as a pupil you must follow the rules and policies of your school.

## Do I have to do tests and exams?

You must follow school rules or policy and this may include sitting tests and exams. Pupils in primary schools will do standardised tests in reading and maths in 2nd, 4th and 6th classes. The law does not say that you must sit the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate exams. However, the Leaving Certificate is the most common way into third-level education (universities and third-level colleges).

There are also other education options like:

- the Leaving Certificate Applied
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Awards
- other courses and access programmes.

If you are home-schooled you do not have to take the formal exams like the Junior or Leaving Certificate, but you can ask your parent or guardian to arrange for you to do so. You can get more information on the website of the [State Examinations Commission](#), see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

## Can I appeal results of my Junior or Leaving Certificate exams if I think they are unfair?

Yes. To appeal a result in a Junior Certificate subject, talk to your school who will apply to the State Examinations Commission for you. To appeal a result in a Leaving Certificate subject you must:

- fill in an appeal form which you can get from your school
- send the form to the State Examinations Commission.

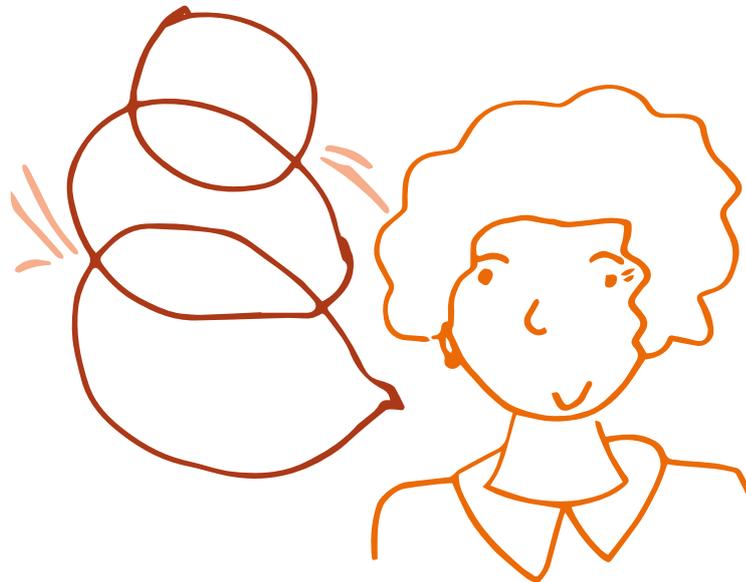
For both exams there is a fee for each subject you wish to appeal.

## 2.6 Student councils

Student councils allow second-level students to work with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.

### Can I set up a student council in my school?

Yes. Students in post-primary schools have the right to set up a student council and to get help from the school to do this. The [Department of Children and Youth Affairs website](#) has a resource pack on student councils which you might find useful.



## 2.7 School discipline

### What happens if I get into trouble at school?

If you get into trouble at school your school must have a system that it follows. When students are disruptive in class or break rules, the system must deal with them fairly. The Board of Management of every school must have a student code of behaviour. The code of behaviour explains the rules you must follow when you are in school. It will also say what will happen if you do not follow the school's rules.

Your school will give you and your parents or guardian a copy of the code of behaviour when you enrol. The school may ask your parents or guardian to confirm in writing that they agree with the code and that they will do all they can to help you obey the rules.

If you cause trouble in school, the school may consider a number of options like:

- **detention** – you must stay in school during lunchtime or after school for an hour or so
- **confiscation** – the school may take away something, like your mobile phone
- **temporarily excluding you from class** – you are sent to the principal's office.

If your behaviour is more serious, the school can suspend you or even expel you. However, the school must act fairly and give you a chance to have your say.

### What happens if I am suspended from school?

Being suspended means you are not allowed to attend school for a set number of days. A school may suspend you if you have seriously misbehaved. The school's decision must be reasonable and reflect the seriousness of what you have done. Schools must have procedures in place that show the steps they must take before they can suspend you. If a school suspends you but does not follow the procedures you can appeal their decision.

## What happens if I am expelled from school?

Being expelled means you cannot attend the school again. By law, schools must have procedures in place which outline the steps they must take before they can expel you. For instance, the school's Board of Management must tell the Educational Welfare Service that the school intends to expel you.

The school must then wait at least 20 days before it can expel you. In certain circumstances a school might suspend you until the expulsion has taken place. The Educational Welfare Service will try to find a way to prevent the expulsion and make sure that you still get an education, perhaps in another school.

### Can I appeal my suspension or expulsion?

Yes, but you cannot appeal it yourself, your parent or guardian can appeal it for you. They must first appeal to the school's Board of Management. If this is not successful, they can appeal to the Department of Education and Skills.

An appeals committee will hear the appeal and make recommendations to the Secretary General of the Department on the action to take. The Secretary General will then write to your parents or guardian and to the school's Board of Management with the decision and reasons for the decision.

The Secretary General may also tell the Board of Management how to resolve the issue. If you need information and support you can contact the Children's Rights Alliance:

- phone, [01-902 0494](tel:01-902 0494)
- email, [help@childrensrights.ie](mailto:help@childrensrights.ie).

## What do I do if a teacher hits me at school?

No-one is allowed to hit you or be physically abusive to you in any way. If you have been physically abused at school by a teacher or anyone else, you should tell your parents or guardian, or an adult you trust. You, or your parent or guardian acting on your behalf, can complain to the Gardaí. Your parent or guardian may also complain to the school on your behalf. You can also complain to the [Teaching Council of Ireland](#).

## What can I do if I think my teacher is treating me unfairly?

You cannot make a complaint directly, but your parent or guardian can complain on your behalf directly to the teacher. If you are not happy with the teacher's response, your parents or guardian can complain to the school principal. If the issue is not resolved, your parent or guardian can make a formal complaint to the school's Board of Management.

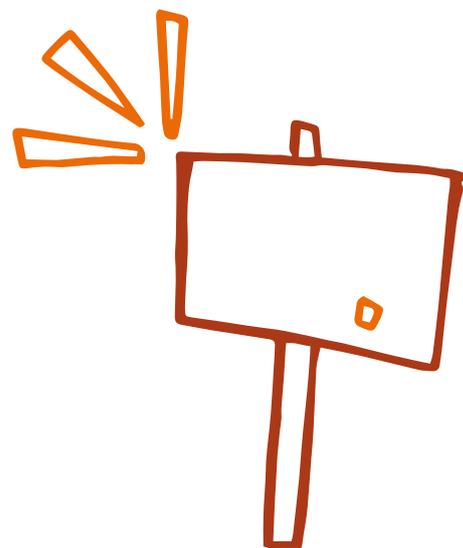
Finally, if you feel that the way your complaint was handled by the school was unfair, you can complain to the [Ombudsman for Children's Office](#), for more information see chapter 10 'where can I go for help'.

If the complaint is about discrimination, your parent or guardian may complain to the Workplace Relations Commission. For more see chapter 1 on 'my right to be treated equally, be included and make decisions'. To do this, within two months of the last act of discrimination, you must first notify the school you are making the complaint. If you are dissatisfied with how the school responds, or it has failed to respond within one month, you can complain to the Workplace Relations Commission. You must do this within six months of the last act of discrimination.

If the complaint is about a data protection issue, you can complain to the Data Protection Commissioner.

## Can I hold a protest in school?

A school is private property. If you want to hold a protest on private property you should ask for permission from the managers and owners, in this case the principal and the Board of Management. You have a right to hold a peaceful protest in a public place. You should contact the Gardaí (Irish police) to let them know that you are planning to do so. This way they can redirect traffic and allow your protest to pass through safely.



## How do I make a complaint to my child's school?

If you want to complain about your child's education or treatment, you should follow these steps.

1. Speak directly to your child's teacher, following the method set out in the school's policies.
2. If the matter remains unresolved, speak to the school principal.
3. If necessary, and if the complaint concerns a teacher, write to the school principal.
4. If the principal fails to resolve the complaint, write to the chairperson of the Board of Management of the school. The chairperson will refer the complaint to a sub-committee which will investigate and reply to you.
5. If you do not agree with the outcome of the investigation, write to the chairperson appealing the decision.
6. If you are dissatisfied with the response of the chairperson, you can complain to the **Ombudsman for Children**. See chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.
7. You can also get legal advice to see if you have grounds to make a legal complaint. You can access free legal advice from the **Children's Rights Alliance** or the **Free Legal Advice Centres**.

The Department of Education and Skills has no role in a school complaint. If you need information and support, you can contact the **Children's Rights Alliance**:

- phone, **01-902 0494**
- email **help@childrensrights.ie**.

## 2.8 Bullying

### What is bullying?

Bullying is harmful behaviour by a person or group against a person which is repeated over time. Bullying can be verbal, psychological or physical and can take place:

- to your face
- by phone
- online.

Being bullied can have serious emotional and psychological effects on a person. Bullying behaviour can take many forms including:

- deliberately excluding you from a group or activity
- nasty gossip about you.

Bullying can also include placing an offensive or hurtful message where it can be viewed or repeated by other people, for example, an image or statement on:

- a social network site
- other public forum
- website.

You can also be bullied based on your identity. This is bullying because you are:

- gay or transgender
- of a different race
- a Traveller
- have a disability
- have special educational needs.

If you are being bullied, you have a right to be protected. No one should bully you for any reason.

## What should the school do if I am being bullied or if my friend is being bullied?

First, you should tell your teacher, school principal or other trusted adult about the bullying. Schools must have a policy for dealing with bullying. This should state clearly that bullying is unacceptable.

The school should have:

- procedures (instructions) for investigating and dealing with bullying
- procedures to help those affected by bullying
- strategies to prevent bullying happening in the first place
- a record of what they do to tackle bullying.

## How can I make sure that I respect others?

It is important that you respect other people's boundaries, both their physical self and their stuff. This includes someone's:

- body
- phone
- backpack
- items on their desk at school.

Sometimes your behaviour could be misunderstood, and someone could think you are bullying them. To avoid someone thinking this there are some things you can do.

### **Control your own behaviour**

When someone asks you to stop, you should listen and stop what you are doing.

### **Don't join in bullying**

Don't be involved in excluding others or purposely making others feel bad.

### **Know the expectations of different settings**

The rules may be different in different places like:

- at home
- at school
- in a sports club
- in different cultures.

What is acceptable in one place may be unacceptable somewhere else. If you are unsure what is appropriate, then ask the other person what is acceptable.

## 2.9 Privacy in school

### Do I have a right to privacy in school?

Privacy in school means attending school without any interference by the school in:

- your private life
- your personal space
- your body
- your belongings.

There are some situations where a school can interfere with your privacy. For example, a teacher can search your bag if they believe that you are carrying illegal substances or alcohol. However, both you and your parent or guardian must agree to this.

Your parent or guardian must also be present if a teacher wants to search you, for example, to check what is in your pockets.

Your locker is school property, but you are entitled to privacy while the locker is assigned to you during the school year. A teacher may search your locker, but only if they have a good reason for doing so. The teacher should tell you why they are searching your locker.

### Does my parent have a right to know how I am doing at school?

Yes, your parents or guardian have a right to be kept informed about your education and behaviour in school. This is usually done through school reports, which parents receive once a year, and through parent-teacher meetings or through online systems where parents can log on and see how their child is doing.

### Do I have a right to see my school records?

Not until you reach 18 years of age. This is when the school has to make school records available to you if you ask for them. If you are under 18, your parent or guardian can access school records on your behalf.

### Can my teacher look through my phone?

Your school's code of behaviour will state if you are allowed a mobile phone in school and what will happen if you have one with you. If it is against the school rules to use a phone in school, teachers will often be permitted to confiscate it. Your teacher should not look through your phone without you and your parent or guardian's permission.

## 2.10 Cost of school

### Can I get financial assistance to help pay for the costs of my child going to school?

There are a number of grants available. These grants are based on your income and to qualify you must meet a number of conditions.

The types of financial assistance include:

- the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance
- the School Books Grant scheme.

In addition, if you have a medical card you may not have to pay exam fees.

You can find out more on the website of the [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#) see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

Some schools have their own schemes to help parents with costs. To find out if your child's school has a scheme, contact the school.

## 2.11 Additional educational needs

If you have special educational needs, you have the right to education that suits your needs.

### Do I have a right to be treated equally to other students?

Yes, you have a right to be treated equally to other students in school. You should not be treated less favourably than other students in the same situation based on your disability. For more on this see chapter 1 'my right to be treated equally, be involved and make decisions'.

### Where can I go to school if I have special educational needs?

You can be educated in:

- a mainstream class in a mainstream primary or post-primary school
- a special class in a mainstream primary or post-primary school that has fewer students than other classes
- a special school for students with special educational needs.

The law says that children with special educational needs should, where possible, be educated in a mainstream school with children who do not have special needs. This should happen unless it would not be the best thing for your or would not be good for the other children in the school.

### Will I get additional supports if I go to a mainstream primary school?

A learning support or a special education teacher may give you additional teaching support. You may also be given access to a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) if you have significant care needs. The SNA will help you with practical tasks, like getting around the school.

All primary schools have a number of special education teachers or learning support staff. The number of special education teachers allocated to a school is determined by the size of the school and its educational profile. Schools then decide how to allocate teachers based on the need of pupils in the school.

The school provides support taking into account your learning needs. You do not need to have a diagnosis of a particular disability. The additional teaching may be provided in the classroom or in small separate groups.

A school can also apply to the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) for additional teaching support or access to SNA support if you have:

- a significant medical need for care assistance
- a significant impairment of physical or sensory function such as a physical or intellectual disability
- where your behaviour is such that you are a danger to yourself or other pupils.

You will need to be formally assessed to access this support and the support of an SNA.

## Can I make a complaint if I feel I am not getting the supports I need?

If you feel you have not been given the support you need, your parent can ask the local Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) to explain why you have not received them.

You can ask the school to appeal the decision if you feel that some of the information you gave was not taken into account or if you feel that proper school or Department of Education policy was not considered. As all resources, such as SNAs or learning support teachers, are allocated to the school, they must forward any appeals.

If you feel the appeals process didn't work properly, you can ask to have the decision referred to the Appeals Advisory Committee. For more information see the [NCSE website](#), see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

## If I had extra supports in primary school, will I get them at post-primary level?

You will not automatically get additional supports like extra teaching support or a Special Needs Assistant when you go to post-primary school. Parents or guardians can check to make sure that your primary school sends all reports on to the post-primary school before you arrive.

If you need continuous support, the school may provide you with some extra learning support from its learning support team. Alternatively, it may apply to the National Council for Special Education for additional resources. This means that your parent or guardian would have to submit medical reports about your specific needs so the Council could assess whether or not to give you additional supports. This includes SNA support if you continue to need it. For more see the [National Council for Special Education website](#), see chapter 10 'where can I go for help' for details.

## How can I access reasonable conditions for exams?

If you are in secondary school and have special needs, your school may make special arrangements for you while you are sitting State examinations like the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate. If you have a disability, for example a visual impairment, you can apply through your school for reasonable services during examinations such as a scribe or a reader.

If you are not satisfied with the arrangements made, you may appeal to an independent appeals forum.

For more information speak to your school or see the [State Examinations Commission website](#).

## 2.12 School transport

Bus Éireann runs a school transport scheme for the Department of Education and Skills. It provides transport to and from school for children who do not live near their school or need transport because they have a disability that has been diagnosed by a health professional.

### For parents and guardians

### Is my child eligible for school transport?

If your child is in primary school, they may be eligible for school transport if they live more than 3.2 km from the nearest suitable national school. To be eligible for school transport at second-level, your child must live more than 4.8 km from the nearest suitable post-primary school. And your child must attend that school (the nearest suitable one).

If your child has a special educational need due to a diagnosed disability, they may be eligible for transport under a special scheme. You can find out if your child is eligible for this by consulting with the National Council for Special Education through the local Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO).

They will decide based on the circumstances when your child first enrolled, if they will continue to provide transport for as long as they are enrolled in the class or school. If your child transfers to a different school, you will need to apply for new school transport for them.

To find out more see the [Department of Education and Skill's website](#), under 'school transport'.

### If I am unhappy about a school transport decision affecting my child, can I appeal it?

Yes, you may appeal some decisions under the School Transport Scheme to the School Transport Appeals Board. There is no charge for making an appeal. You must make your appeal within 28 days of being notified of the decision. You can find more information and submit your complaint online on the [School Transport Appeals website](#).

