

## Eimear O Sullivan

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**From:** Minister of State – Special Education <education-MOSSE@corr.cloud.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 18 July 2025 11:47  
**To:** LUPT - Central Management Unit  
**Subject:** EDU-MOSSE-01396-2025

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Ms. Eimear O'Sullivan  
cmu@SDUBLINCOCO.ie

### **PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE**

Our Ref: EDU-MOSSE-01396-2025

Dear Ms. O'Sullivan,

I refer to your recent correspondence on behalf of the councillors of the Lucan, Palmerstown, and North Clondalkin Area Committee regarding children with special education needs in the area.

This government is fully committed to supporting children with special educational needs to fulfil their full potential and the Programme for Government makes a number of commitments to deliver on this objective.

Through the accelerated provision of additional special class and special school places over recent years, there are now just over 28,000 students enrolled in special classes and special schools. 2,700 new places are being created in 2025 and these, together with the over 1,200 existing places which will become available due to children and young people moving on from primary schools and post primary schools, will mean that there is close to 4,000 places available for the coming school year. The NCSE has engaged in a process with parents and schools to identify children requiring a place for the 2025/26 school year and the 3,900 places available should meet the need that exists.

In total, 407 new special classes have been sanctioned for the 2025/26 school year. Of these, 103 new special classes are in County Dublin, including 81 at primary and 22 at post primary. This will add to the 131 special classes currently in operation in the county.

The NCSE actively encourage expressions of interest from schools to open special classes, and I appreciate and commend the efforts taken by boards of management in expressing their interest. However, it is not always possible to open a special class in every school that expresses an interest.

The department and the NCSE are committed to delivering an education system that is of the highest quality and where every child and young person feels valued and is actively supported and nurtured to reach their full potential.

I hope the above is of some information to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Matthew Errity". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" and the last name "Errity" clearly distinguishable.

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Matthew Errity  
Private Secretary to Michael Moynihan TD  
Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion