

# ST NESSAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Pobal Choláiste Neasáin Naofa)



## **Inclusion of Students with Special Needs Policy (I.S.S.E.N.)**

March 2009

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## **SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY/MISSION STATEMENT**

St Nessan's Community College is a non-denominational, co-educational school. It is comprehensive in its intake and in its curricular provision.

St Nessan's Community College is committed to maintaining an educational environment where the growth, learning and development (Fás, Foghlaim, Forbairt – school motto) of our students can flourish.

To further the aims of St Nessan's C.C. as expressed in the mission statement:

- The pursuit of high standards in all endeavours will be expected and every effort will be directed towards the attainment of such standards.
- The school will do its utmost within its resources to provide appropriate opportunities so that every individual has the opportunity to gain maximum benefit from their experience in St Nessan's.
- The rights, responsibilities and dignity of all individuals within the school community will be respected. However, the Common Good takes precedence where there is a conflict between individuals.

## **Definition of Special Education Needs (S.E.N)**

The Education for Persons with Special Needs Act (E.P.S.E.N) 2004 defines special education needs as:

“a restriction in the capacity of the person to participate in and benefit from education on account of an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or learning disability or any other condition which results in a person learning differently without that condition.”

## **Aims and Principals**

**The I.S.S.E.N Policy aims to:**

1. Enable students to live a full life and realise his/her full potential as a unique individual through access to the appropriate broad and balanced curriculum in an inclusive environment.
2. To enable students to function as independently as possible in society through the provision of such educational supports as are necessary to realise their potential.
3. To enable students to continue learning in adult life.

## **Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.'s)**

The College will endeavour to frame, deliver and implement I.E.P.'s in accordance with the E.P.S.E.N Act 2004.

## **Special Education Needs Support Team**

A special 'Education Needs Support Team', coordinated by the College's Resource Coordinator, will coordinate the resource allocation and services to students, on an annual basis.

## **National Educational Psychological Services (N.E.P.S.)**

The College will work in a spirit of partnership to utilise the full range of services provided by the National Educational Psychological Service.

## **Reasonable Accommodation for State Examinations (R.A.S.E)**

The College will endeavour to ensure that, students who have an entitlement to reasonable accommodations at state examinations will receive their entitlements.

To achieve this, the College endeavours to:

1. Identify the specific learning difficulty. (*Resource Coordinator*).
2. Apply for the appropriate Reasonable Accommodation. (*Examination Secretary*).
3. Allow students to use Reasonable Accommodations in school exams. (*Examination Secretary*).

## **Parents/Guidance Counsellor/Resource Coordinator/Learning Support**

1. The College will work in partnership with parents on Individual Education Plans.
2. The Guidance Counsellor is a core member of the Special Education Needs Support Team and will assist the other members of this team in facilitating the provision of education for students with Special Education Needs and their inclusion in school.
3. The resource co-ordinator will liaise with the Guidance Counsellor and other staff members in the review of individual progress.
4. Learning Support or Team Teaching can be provided by any teacher on the staff. Continuity (same teacher for 3 years) is part of best practice and this will be provided in the best manner that resources allow. Resource teaching should be provided by trained teachers for specific learning problems e.g. Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, A.D.H.D. etc.

## **Whole School Approach to Special Education Needs Provision**

- St Nessan's Community College recognises that a whole school approach to S.E.N. provision is best practise.
- To achieve this, the College promotes equality in our admissions Policy. This creates a synergy between our Policy and 'The Equal Status Act 2000' and The Education Act 1998.
- The College promotes equality in the school ethos, values, climate and acceptance of diversity.
- The College promotes inclusiveness through equality of access in curriculum choice and provision.
- The College promotes the concept of equality in school programmes, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.
- The I.S.S.E.N Policy will be part of the school 'Guidance Plan'.

## **Student Information – 'A Whole School Approach'**

Unless there is a very good reason for withholding certain information, mainstream teachers, in order to carry out their professional duties, will have access to all information that is likely to be relevant to teaching or supervising a student who experiences special needs, including psychological reports and other confidential document.