



Redeemer Boys' National School Ard Easmuinn
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Re: Home-based summer programme to support the Education or Care Needs of Students with Complex Needs

18th May 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of _____,

The purpose of this letter is to let you know the arrangements for the 2023 Home-Based Summer Programme for students with complex special educational needs.

Firstly, I need to inform you that **Redeemer Boys' N.S. is not in a position to participate in the School-Based Summer Provision for pupils in our autism classes or pupils presenting with the most significant needs in our mainstream classes in 2023.**

The Department will continue to provide a home-based summer programme to support the education or care needs of students with complex needs during the summer break period where their school is not providing a school-based programme.

This home-based summer programme provides 10 hours per week for a maximum 4 weeks of home-based tuition or care support for an individual eligible pupil.

Eligibility Criteria

Your son meets the criteria for this programme as he is:

1. Enrolled in a special class in primary school
2. Presenting with the most significant needs in mainstream in primary school and is accessing the highest level of the Continuum of Support (School Support Plus)
3. Diagnosed with autism
4. In one of the above categories and entering primary school in September 2023

The following documents have been enclosed with this letter:

1. Overview/Terms and Conditions for Parents, Teachers, SNAs and Schools
2. Application Form for Sanctioning

What's New for 2023

- The Department is allowing a **small-group arrangement** whereby individual registered teachers can deliver a programme for students in a group of up to three. Therefore, if parents wish, they may enter into an arrangement with a registered teacher to tutor their child in a small group, up to a maximum of 3 children.
- For groups of 4 or larger, the Department will continue to approve the Private Group Provider Arrangements between parents and private providers as it has done in previous years.
- Allocations to **siblings will no longer be a shared allocation**, each student will be sanctioned on an individual basis.

Steps

- Please read the Overview/Terms and Conditions document and then complete the Application Form for sanctioning and return this form to the school.
- We will then submit an application for your son on the 2023 Home-Based Summer Programme Online Sanctioning Portal. Please Note that the **Online Sanctioning Portal** is now live and will remain open until **Friday 9th June 2023**.
- Once the application has been submitted on the Portal and is approved, a sanction email will issue to the addresses provided by the school and parent. A link to a Grant Claim Form will accompany the sanction email. Both the sanction email and Grant Claim Form will be printed off and sent home to each parent.

Purpose of the Programme

The programme aims are to support students to continue their engagement with education, to build their confidence, increase their motivation and promote wellbeing.

Support available under the Home-based summer programme

Parents can engage either a teacher or an SNA in a private arrangement. A maximum of 10 hours per week home-based support will be available to eligible pupils for use during any 4 weeks during the summer holidays (no more than 5 hours in one day). The weeks do not have to run consecutively and support can take place at any time during the school summer holidays, excluding weekends and Bank Holidays. Payment will be made through the Department's NTS payroll. Under the terms of the Home Based Summer Programme a parent cannot receive funding for participating as a teacher/SNA for their own child.

Please Note: A copy of your son's Learning Support File will be provided upon request to allow the teacher/SNA to put together a programme of tuition/care support.

To help parents source a teacher/SNA for the summer programme in their local area, the IPPN has created a Summer Programme Noticeboard for teachers and SNAs to advertise their availability for the programme. Parents can also post notices on the board to source suitable candidates. The Home Based Summer Programme Noticeboard is available on www.educationposts.ie

Yours sincerely, M.Murray

