

**Press Release 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2013**

**455 Additional Resource Teaching Posts Available for Children with Special Needs**

**NCSE announces final allocations for 2013/14**

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) welcomes the recent budgetary announcement made by Minister Ruairí Quinn to allocate additional resource teaching posts to schools for children with special educational needs to meet the increase in demand for supports.

The NCSE is pleased to announce that an additional 455 resource teaching posts over and above the original allocation of 5265 will now be in place in primary and post primary schools. This will bring the total allocation of posts to over 5,700 in approx 3,750 schools.

NCSE Chief Executive, Ms Teresa Griffin said:

“The NCSE is delighted that additional posts have been made available in the budget to meet increased demand for support despite the difficult economic times. We also have a small number of posts left to deal with emergency applications during the year”.

Today the NCSE published details of resource teaching allocations for every school for the 2013/14 school year on their website [www.ncse.ie](http://www.ncse.ie). Schools can access this information and will also be notified in writing on their final allocations.

**End**

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes to editors**

**1. Demand for resource teaching posts**

The overall demand for resource teaching posts for the 2013/2014 school year exceeded the number of posts available. In June 2013, the Department of Education and Skills made the decision to adjust the basis for sanctioning resource teaching hours to schools at 85% of current policy level, in order to ensure that the NCSE had capacity to respond to further applications in the Autumn. These current allocations announced today are also being made at 85% of policy levels.

**2. Historical figures for SNA and Resource Teacher/Learning Support Posts**

Table 1 SNA posts from 2001 to 2013  
(figures to end Dec for each year)

YEAR	SNA POSTS
2001	2,988
2002	4,979
2003	5,367
2004	5,869
2005	7,294
2006	8,390
2007	9,824
2008	10,442
2009	10,342
2010	10,543
2011	10,575*
2012	10,575*
2013	10,575*

\* Maximum posts available

Table 2 Resource Teacher/Learning  
Support Posts 2006 and 2011, 2012, 2013

YEAR	Combined learning support and resource teaching posts
2006	7,185
2011	9,950
2012	9,950
2013	9,950

**3. Educational and Non-Educational (Care) Support Available to Schools**

**Educational Support:**

**Role of the Class Teacher**

The class teacher is responsible for the education of all children in his/her class. This includes pupils with special educational needs. Additional learning support and resource teaching support is provided to build on, and complement, the education delivered by the class teacher.

**Role of the Learning Support Teacher**

Learning support teachers are part of every school's staff. They provide additional tuition and support for pupils with learning difficulties.

**Role of the Resource Teacher**

The role of the resource teacher is to provide *additional teaching capacity* to mainstream primary and post-primary schools with pupils with special educational needs.

**Non-Educational (Care) Support:**

**Role of a Special Needs Assistant (SNA)**

SNA support is provided to schools with pupils who have significant care needs arising from a medical need or a physical disability (e.g. incontinence, paralysis) or sensory disability (i.e. blind/visual impairment; deaf/hard of hearing) or where their behaviour is a danger to themselves or others (e.g. a child runs out onto a road).