**Language Class** **: Information Leaflet for Parents**

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| **Who attends Language Class?**Image result for who | **Children of school age who have DLD (Developmental Language Disorder).** The old / previous terms were: SSLD (‘Specific Speech and/or Language Disorder’).  SSLI (‘Specific Speech and/or Language Impairment’) Children come to Language Class because they need more tailored support from the Teacher and SLT. |
| **What is a** **Language Class?**Image result for language class | A Language Class is a **small class** within a mainstream school. Each Language Class has places for 7 pupils. Children stay for 1 or 2 years. The pupils have access to the normal subjects, as they would in mainstream. There is a part-time SLT (Speech & Language Therapist) allocated to the Language Class apart from Irish.The Language Class teacher and SLT work closely together, and the SLT provides frequent therapy.  The SLT may see children one-to-one, often in groups and sometimes in the class. The Language Class programme involves a close working relationship between Teacher, SLT and Parents/Carers. We all focus on supporting the child’s speech & language and learning development; and on helping each child develop useful personal strategies for communicating, for learning & for life.  |
| **Where are the Language Classes?** Image result for red question mark••• Image result for map directions |  **At the Good Shepherd National School** in Churchtown, there are two Language Classes -one Junior Language Class and one Senior Language Class. The school address is: Good Shepherd N.S., Whitehall Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14. The school website is: [www.goodshepherd.ie](http://www.goodshepherd.ie) The school telephone number is: 01 2989 475 Image result for good shepherd national school churchtown dublin 14 Image result for good shepherd national school churchtown dublin 14 |

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| **Who can refer my child?**Image result for referral form | Your local **SLT** or **Psychologist** can talk through the referral with you. With your permission, the SLT or Psychologist can refer your child to the Principal of Good Shepherd National School to be considered for Language Class placement. |
| **What are the criteria for the classes?****Image result for thumbs up****🗸 🗸 🗸** | Your child must have a diagnosis of DLD made by a speech & language therapist. Your referring SLT can explain more to you about this.The referral must include a number of forms and reports from the SLT, Teacher/s and Psychologist; and from any other relevant professional/s involved in your child’s care.Your child will have to meet certain criteria:-1) The current Department of Education Skills criteria (circular 0038/2007):-⯈ testing by a Psychologist showing that the child’s non-verbal / performance intelligence quotient / IQ is within the average range (score of 90 or above)⯈ testing by a SLT showing that the child’s speech and/or language skills are within the severe range⯈ Your child should have adequate hearing: a hearing threshold for speech sounds (40dB or below).2) The local criteria:-• a child must be at least 4 years of age on or before 1st September of the year they start school.• the child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral. This includes the areas  of Dublin South East, Dublin South City and only those areas in Dublin South/West which are within a  reasonable travelling distance from the school *eg Terenure, Templeogue, Walkinstown*• a child must have attended **a minimum** of eight individual SLT sessions in the past nine months |
| **When can my child** **be referred?** C:\Users\paduffy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\B291VOEE\blockpage[1].gifImage result for jan to march**and** **How do I find out** **if my child has** **a place?** | Applications are accepted as per our Admission Policy which is updated annually. Dates can be accessed on www.goodshepherd.ie.Children who get a place start in the Language Class in September. The Admissions Advisory Committee meets in late March or in April each year to look at the referrals for the following Autumn. This Committee is made up of: the School Principal, Language Class Teachers, the SLT Manager, Language Class SLTs and a Psychologist. 1. First, the Committee looks at the children who fit both the Dept of Education & Skills criteria and the local criteria.

 1. Next, the Committee rates these children and puts them in order of need for Language Class placement.
2. The school’s Board of Management meets to sanction these offers before letters are sent out.
3. Typically the school is oversubscribed with applications for places. A waiting list is created in case a place becomes available.

*Please note: Not all children referred get a place in the Language Class.* |
| **What should I do** **if my child is** **NOT offered a place?**Image result for no guarantee | Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that your child will get a Language Class place. This is because of the limited number of places available each year. The person who referred your child will receive a letter if your child doesn’t get offered a place.You can talk through options for your child with your local SLT.  Your child will still be able to attend Speech & Language Therapy in your Community and get support teaching hours in their mainstream school.You and your SLT may re-apply for a place in the Language Class the following year. |
| **What should I do if my child IS offered a place?**Image result for welcomeImage result for welcome | The school will contact you and ask you to fill in and sign some forms once you accept the place.**Usually both you and your child will be invited to a group meeting in the Language Class before the summer break**.  At this meeting, you will meet the other parents and their children. You will also meet the School Principal, the current Language Class Teachers and the Language Class SLTs. (It may not be possible to meet your child’s teacher.)You will get to see the classroom and therapy room.  We can answer your questions at the meeting.  (During COVID times this meeting will be virtual.)Please make sure that your child’s *own mainstream school keeps a place for your child to go (back) to* after their time in the Language Class. We ask that you talk this through with your school’s Principal before you accept the place in the Language Class.If your child is offered a place and you accept it, he or she will be discharged from the local SLT service for the time that they are in the Language Class. |
| **How will my child get to and from the Language Class?****C:\Users\laanderson\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\BIZWC38Q\cartoon_bus[1].gif** | Bus Eireann operates a free bus / taxi service for the Department of Education & Skills.***The school will ask you to sign and return a form for this on acceptance of a Language Class place.*** In very late August, you will hear what time the bus will come to your home to collect your child.Once school starts, a bus will pick up your child every morning and drop your child home every day after school. You must be there when your child is being collected or dropped home.  *(More information about this may be available from the Department of Education & Skills,* *School Transport Section, Portlaoise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly Tel: 0506 24351/2/3/4/5/6.)* |
| **How much will I need to be involved?**C:\Users\laanderson\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\UVQSR2GQ\homeworkclipart[1].jpg | If your child is offered a place in the Language Class, you will need to:* Attend to parent meetings – either at the school or via videolink
* Help us to set your child’s learning goals
* Join in on speech & language therapy sessions either in the school or via videolink
* Help your child to complete Class homework and agreed Speech/Language ideas & activities
* Make sure your child attends school every day
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| **What happens in the Language Class?**C:\Users\paduffy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\36H8TS6T\school-desk-and-chair[1].png | The Teacher and SLT work together in collaboration with parents to create goals & use approaches that work best for the children. This means that your child’s language & learning can be supported throughout each day, both at school and at home.  We aim to help each child use the communication skills they already have; to learn further language and to develop good learning skills. In the classroom, we give tailored support for reading and for learning a solid range of other skills across the curriculum. We also help your child to understand how to have good conversations and how to be a good friend. The SLT works with each child in various ways. These include the following in a small group setting, sometimes one-to-one, and at times with parents.  The Teacher & SLT sometimes do learning games with the whole class.  |
| **How will my child benefit?****C:\Users\laanderson\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\XCZYKYUK\children_heart[1].jpg** | The Language Class is very helpful for your child’s learning, communication, confidence & wellbeing. Because it is a very small class, the teacher is able to give each child more attention. Children get the opportunity to learn in a place where the teaching/learning approach is adapted to suit their needs.For your child to get the full benefit from educational placement here, your direct support is needed. This way, your child will make fuller progress with language, communication & learning. Children with DLD may always experience some degree of difficulty with understanding or talking. But with Language Class placement, they make significant progress, developing improved good communication skills and personal learning strategies. They develop important skills that they can use throughout their lives. Every child is encouraged to value themselves, the things they are good at and their family & friends. |
| **Will my child mix with other children in the school?****C:\Users\paduffy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\EZIJHRJ4\happy%20children%20clip%20art_medium[1].gif** | Your child will spend most of the school day in the Language Class group in the first two terms. Sometimes they might join a bigger class group for drama, music PE/sports, and perhaps for a class or two in their stronger subjects. The Language Class pupils play in the yard with all the other school children. They also attend weekly school assembly, ceremonies, outings and tours. Language Class pupils join in for several whole-school activities through the year.  |
| **When will my child return to his/her own school?**Image result for calender | Placement in the Language Class is for 1 or 2 years.Children sometimes go (back) to their own school after one year.  This happens if we agree that your child no longer needs to attend Language Class.   If this is the case, we meet with you to talk through and plan together the next stage for your child. When your child is leaving the Language Class, we contact your next school and your local SLT.  We tell the SLT what’s happening and ask them to put your child back on their list for therapy.   We connect with your child’s next school to offer support and information to his/her new teachers. |
| **Where can I find out more information?** | You may wish to find out more at: [www.goodshepherd.ie](http://www.goodshepherd.ie) [www.naplic.org.uk](http://www.naplic.org.uk)[http://www.afasic.org.uk/resources/free-downloads/learning-about-impairments/](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=6Y7i2bINV_aYZfgcg-zsShu9Rl73OjkWrz030WJQ4g&s=343&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eafasic%2eorg%2euk%2fresources%2ffree-downloads%2flearning-about-impairments%2f)RADLD facebook.com/radld.page/ or on youtube.com/radld ( radld = **R**aising **A**wareness of **DLD**)[http://www.ican.org.uk/](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=6Y7i2bINV_aYZfgcg-zsShu9Rl73OjkWr2o2jDNQtg&s=343&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eican%2eorg%2euk%2f)[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/training-and-conferences/talk-to-your-baby](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=6Y7i2bINV_aYZfgcg-zsShu9Rl73OjkWrz5r2WEN4Q&s=343&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eliteracytrust%2eorg%2euk%2ftraining-and-conferences%2ftalk-to-your-baby)[http://ncse.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Pamphlet-7-SSLD-01\_09\_14.pdf](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=6Y7i2bINV_aYZfgcg-zsShu9Rl73OjkWr2gw3zEN5Q&s=343&u=http%3a%2f%2fncse%2eie%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2014%2f10%2fPamphlet-7-SSLD-01%5f09%5f14%2epdf)[www.iaslt.ie/DLDpositionpaper/](http://www.iaslt.ie/DLDpositionpaper/)  |

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| *No, I don’t want* *to apply.**What happens next?**Image result for thumbs down* | Your child stays in your local SLT serviceCheck with your school principal. Your child may be able to get support teaching hours at school. If you change your mind, you and your SLT may wish to apply next year for the Language Class.  |
| *Yes, I want to apply. What happens next?****Image result for thumbs up*** | Your speech and language therapist will explain what assessments and paperwork are needed. |