

Special Needs Assistants (SNAs)

Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) are recruited specifically to meet the care needs of pupils with diagnosed low incidence disability. The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) has responsibility for SNA provision in schools. SNAs are assigned to the school rather than to individual SEN pupils and any one SNA may work with a number of children.

Not all pupils with disability meet the Department of Education and Science criteria for SNA assistance. Separate applications for each such pupil are submitted to the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) who makes the decisions regarding provision of SNA support.

Movement of SNAs between pupils is coordinated by the Special Needs Co-ordinator-Mary Power.

Special Needs Assistants work in collaboration with teachers in supporting and serving pupils with special needs within the classroom.

They also engage in a general way with all the pupils in the class assisting and supporting the class teacher or where appropriate any other teacher.

Any parent or guardian of a pupil seeking information regarding a pupil's progress or any other issue should approach the class teacher, not the SNA.

SNAs are involved in drafting I.E.Ps . (Individual Education Plan). This gives the SNA an opportunity to become familiar with each students individual needs and strengths and enables the SNA to collaborate with other professionals who may be engaged with the Special Needs Pupil.