



Supplementary Programme in School premises

25 March 2021

Dear Principal,

The Department has already set out details of the supplementary programme to support the education and/or care needs of students with complex needs resulting from the disruption to in-school education from Covid-19 by way of letter to schools on the 11th of February.

This programme provided 20 hours of one to one in person support for students who had returned to school on March 1st and 30 hours for all other students.

The guidance supporting the programme had already outlined that the tuition must be delivered outside of the normal school day (i.e. evenings and weekends), so that the student can continue to engage as fully as possible with the teaching and learning provided by their school.

To maximise the number of students participating the Department had also confirmed that any unused hours could be delivered at any time before 30th April 2021, including during the Easter holidays.

Since the announcement of the programme representations have been made to the Department by a number of schools, parents, management bodies and by the Ombudsman for Children to allow the programme operate on school premises. Therefore the Department can confirm that the running of the supplementary programme in schools is an authorised activity.

It is open to any Board of Management, if they so wish, to make their school premises available to facilitate the running of the supplementary programme, including if so wished over the Easter period.

The Department is aware that post primary schools are very busy at present across a number of key areas including preparing for the full return to school after Easter of all school students, continuing to support remote and in person teaching and learning as well as preparing to facilitate oral and practical components in the Leaving Certificate examinations.

In these circumstances running the programme over Easter may not be suitable and the purpose of this letter is not to create unfair expectations that schools would do so but to allow those schools, who are anxious to offer this programme to their students on their school premises, to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Mannion, Assistant Secretary