



1 June 2022

Dear Principal,

As we approach the end of the current school year there are a number of updates regarding the provision of support to children arriving from Ukraine which you may find helpful.

1. Continuing trends in arrivals and movement of families over the summer months

As of 13 May, 5,843 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland. Out of that figure 3,968 of these pupils have been accommodated in primary schools while 1,875 students have enrolled in post-primary schools. This phenomenal achievement has been possible due to a collective effort between your school communities, the Department, its agencies and national stakeholders.

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have indicated that new arrivals continue but at a lower rate. The Department has also been advised by the DCEDIY, which has responsibility for providing emergency accommodation for people arriving from Ukraine, that there is likely to be movement of some Ukrainian families from their current accommodation during the summer months due to the short-term and temporary nature of their initial placement. Schools are advised that some families may be required to move location over the summer months to access other accommodation. Some families may also initially be placed in short term accommodation (e.g. student accommodation) during the summer months and therefore may not be in the same location in September. This may mean children will need to move school and enrol in a new school in September. The Department will continue to work closely with DCEDIY in regards to numbers and scenario planning, and will communicate with the REALTs and schools regarding planning for enrolments in September.

2. Capacity Surveys

The engagement of post primary schools with the recent survey of potential capacity to accommodate Ukrainian pupils was hugely valuable in identifying circa 20,000 school places which may be available. A similar survey has just been issued to all primary schools, using school email



addresses as recorded on POD, and should be completed as quickly as possible to enable a more complete understanding of available capacity to accommodate Ukrainian pupils. If any mainstream primary school has not received this survey please contact SchoolCapacitySurvey@education.gov.ie or 057 9324461 (Option 2). Engagement with special schools in respect of potential capacity will commence shortly.

3. Approach to enrolments over the summer – proposed approach that REALTs will hold lists, confirm and contact schools in August

The Department is working closely with the Regional Education and Language Teams (REALTs) on a pre-enrolment process over the summer months in an effort to ease potential placement problems in September. Over the summer period the process will require the REALT Co-ordinator to:

- Gather basic information from families looking for school places;
- Check relevant capacity in their local area using GIS data available;
- Match requirements to capacity and hold lists;
- Recheck the location and other details and communicate details of children requiring a place to schools in mid to late August.

4. POD and PPOD

Schools are reminded of the importance of keeping the information on POD and PPOD up to date including details on children who have either enrolled in a school or who have left a school.

5. School Transport Scheme services – new applicants and reapplication by all students from Ukraine

Applications for school transport for Ukrainian children for 2022/2023 will follow the current processes. Applications for children who require School Transport for the first time for the 2022/2023 school year will need to be made in line with the current process. All children who have availed of School Transport for the 2021/22 school year will need to re-apply for transport for the 2022/23 school year in line with the current processes. This includes children in host family homes, families from



Ukraine living in their own independent accommodation and families residing in accommodation centres.

6. EAL and ESOL process for application, sanction and drawdown

Schools were recently notified of the arrangements for applying for English as an Additional Language (EAL) supports for the 2022/23 school year. Applications must be made on Form U-EAL 22/23 which is available on the following [Link](#).

EAL resources will be allocated in accordance with table set out in Form U-EAL 22/23.

In instances where post primary schools are unable to source a teacher to fulfil EAL hours, the school can apply directly to the ESOL co-ordinator in the local ETB and a Tutor, if available, will be assigned from the ESOL panel to cover these, or the balance of these, hours. Please note that ESOL supports are available to Post Primary schools only.

7. Supporting children with special educational needs

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) are important members of the REALT teams. When a child with complex special educational needs who is coming from Ukraine has enrolled in a school the school should make contact with their local Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) who will assist schools in supporting the children. Schools can seek an exceptional review of special educational teaching and special need assistant supports with the NCSE as needed.

Where schools consider that children from Ukraine may require a special school or special class placement schools must make contact with the local SENO. The SENO will work with the child's family and other agencies in ensuring that such specialist placements are appropriate to the needs of the child. Once this has been established the SENO will support the families in securing such placements in their local area.

8. Advice for 6th class students

Schools may wish to advise the parents/guardians of students presently enrolled in 6th class the contact details of local post-primary schools.

In the event that students are having problems enrolling in schools, please direct them to your local REALT coordinator, who will assist children in finding school places.



9. Class placement advice

Placing students in the most age-appropriate class, year group and programme is a key priority in supporting wellbeing, identity, belonging, educational progression and outcomes. The Department has developed a detailed information note to offer guidance on class placement and this advice is available [here](#).

10. Summer Programme

This year's Summer Programme will allow all primary and post-primary schools to offer a summer programme for students with complex special educational needs and those at greatest risk of educational disadvantage. This Inclusion Programme offers an opportunity for schools to address the needs of migrant students such as addressing English language skills and integration. This includes students who have recently arrived in Ireland from the Ukraine. Please see link to the Summer Programme [here](#).

11. Information on the Regional Education and Language Teams (REALTs)

The primary role of the REALT is to assist children in finding school places and to support schools to meet the needs of these children as they emerge. The REALT also advise and support the Department in developing new capacity where required, and to co-ordinate the provision of education services to children and families across their defined area. Each REALT has access to the Department's geomap of all schools in the country. These teams act as a liaison between schools, local education support services and national support structures in relation to Ukrainian arrivals as appropriate.

The regional teams are hosted and administratively supported within the ETBs and lead a network of other key agencies, including Tusla Education Support Service (TESS), NEPS regional personnel, NCSE regional personnel and Management body local nominees working together with local schools. All of the key agencies working together in a holistic manner will bring added value and efficiencies to the process of supporting the Ukrainian children. The teams have initially focused on ensuring that children find school places when they are ready to engage with the school system.



12. Information from Ukrainian authorities:

The Ukrainian authorities have confirmed that this year the final schooling examination – known as the “Matura”, has been cancelled. Students from Ukraine will be given school-leaving certificates based on their academic status achieved during the 1st semester of the current school year and the 2nd semester if this is available. The procedures of receipt of school-leaving certificates are being worked through by the Ukrainian authorities.

We also have been advised that university entrance exams for Ukraine will take place online. The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science is liaising closely with the Irish Universities’ Association (IUA) to support Ukrainian young people here in Ireland who wish to sit this exam.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Education has directed students seeking information about the format of the examination to this website:

<https://testportal.gov.ua/vstupni-na-bakalavrat/>

13. Department’s helpline for Principals

If a school has other support requirements or queries the school principal can also contact the Department’s helpline for principal by emailing USupport@education.gov.ie or by telephone 057 9324461. The helpline will operate from Monday - Friday 09.00-17.00.

Primary schools in Ukraine typically finish at the beginning of June for the summer. Therefore, please ensure that parents/guardians of pupils/students attending school here are aware of school closing dates for 2021/2022 school year and reopening dates for 2022/2023 school year.

Thank you for your ongoing support for all Ukrainian pupils/students who have arrived into our schools during this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Deirdre Shanley
Assistant Secretary