



St Oliver Plunkett School

Parent information leaflet for Reading Class

What are the reading classes?



Our two reading classes are specifically for children with severe dyslexia. There are nine pupils in each class. The junior class is for children from third and fourth class, and the senior class is for children in fifth and sixth class. Children in the reading classes participate in all subjects, except for Irish. They also integrate for some subjects with their peers in the mainstream classes. The placement is for a maximum of two years, at the end of which the children return to their own class/school

Who attends the reading classes?



We invite applications from children from North Dublin. In order to qualify, they must meet the following criteria, as decided by the Department of Education:

- I. *Priority is given to children attending St Oliver Plunkett School that meet the criteria, and then to children from the catchment area.,*
- II. *Children must be of average or above average intelligence, as outlined on their Psychological Report, which must accompany the application.*

What are the criteria for placement in the reading classes?



- III. *Children must have a significant deficit in reading/maths ability, at or below the 2nd Percentile;*
- IV. *The psychologist report must recommend that the child attends a reading class.*
- V. *Children enrolling must have a diagnosis of Dyslexia or Dyscalculia. The referring psychological report confirming this should be less than two years old*
- VI. *The primary diagnosis must be dyslexia; Children with a primary diagnosis of dyslexia will be given priority over children with multiple diagnoses.*

How do I go about getting a place for my child?



Parents make the application on behalf of their children. The application forms are available from the school office immediately after Christmas each year. The closing date is in February. Check our Admissions Notice on www.stops.ie for the exact date as it varies each year. We also ask the child's school to complete a referral form. The application must be accompanied by the psychological report and this school referral form. As we serve such a huge area, we are always over subscribed, so even if your child meets the criteria, there is no guarantee that they will secure a place.



Are there other options?

We advise all parents to apply for as many reading units as possible. Here is the list of relevant schools

- [Catherine McAuley N.S.](#), Baggott Street, Dublin 2.
Tel. 01 6615645.
- [St. Thomas's S.N.S.](#) Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Tel. 01 4526555
- [St. Mologas N.S.](#), Bremore, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.
Tel. 01 8413133.
- [Scoil Colmcille](#), Newbrook Rd., Donaghmede, Dublin 13.
Tel. 01 8477300
- [Holy Family S.N.S.](#),
Forest Fields, Rivervalley, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Tel. 01 8406334

How will my child get to Malahide?



Children living more than three miles from the school can avail of the free transport scheme which is operated by Bus Eireann in conjunction with the Department of Education. Parents should note that they are only entitled to transport to the nearest available school.

From the first day of school, the children are picked up from home in the morning and delivered back home each afternoon. The school does not have any role in securing this transport, other than notifying the Department of Education that the child has accepted a place.

Further information is available at DE, School Transport Section, Portlaoise Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

How will the reading class help my child?



The children that qualify for the reading classes have very severe dyslexia, often impacting very negatively on their confidence. One of the greatest benefits we see is the increase in confidence among the children in the reading class. They realise that they are not the only one with dyslexia, that they are bright with lots to say and contribute. They have friends on a similar path and can share their experiences and help each other. They learn that it is okay to make spelling mistakes, they are not ashamed or embarrassed. While it can be very difficult for a child to leave their own school and their pals, we often find that at the end of their time with us, they are asking to stay longer!! Home life also improves as they find that the homework is less taxing.

Children attending our reading classes have a great capacity to learn, as they are bright, and, we hope, enthusiastic learners. Children with a specific learning difficulty, dyslexia, learn differently than their peers in mainstream classes. We offer a multi-sensory teaching programme designed to engage each child according to their learning styles. Children also enjoy using technology to support and enhance their learning. While they will always have dyslexia, they will be given strategies and support to overcome many of their difficulties.

The New Language Curriculum places great emphasis on oral language, on the importance of effective oral communication. This is a great boost for our dyslexic children as they are encouraged to present their project work etc orally to one another. This is a life long skill which permeates all aspects of their lives.

Will my child mix with other children in the school?



We are a large, mixed, vertical school with four streams of each class. The reading classes are not separate from the mainstream, but beside classes of similar level on the corridors. We arrange for the children from the reading classes to have a base class that they meet up with regularly for trips, concerts, and some subjects such as art or PE.

Children attending the reading classes are encouraged to get involved in our after-school activities also such as basketball, football, choir etc. They enjoy acting as yard buddies, playworks coaches etc along with children from classes at similar levels. We are very proud of our inclusive school.

When will my child return to his/her own school?



The placement in the reading class is for a maximum of two years, and generally children stay for the two years. On occasion, children have left at the end of a year.

It is important that you make your child's school principal aware that they will be returning as a place should be kept for them.