

## **Special Education Support Service**

The Special Education Support Service (SESS) consolidates, co-ordinates, develops and delivers professional development initiatives and support structures for school personnel working with pupils and students with special educational needs in a variety of educational settings. These settings include mainstream primary and post-primary schools, special schools and special classes. Cork Education Support Centre is the host centre for the service.

The aim of the service is to enhance the quality of learning and teaching, with particular reference to special educational provision. The SESS aims to provide a quality service that is inclusive, promotes collaboration and co-operation and provides for equality of access.

## **Supports Scheme**

Schools and/or individual teachers identify their own professional development needs in relation to special education and apply to SESS for support. Support sought may be financial, professional and/or advisory in nature. Application forms are available on the website ([www.sess.ie](http://www.sess.ie)) or through direct contact with the SESS.

To date under this scheme, SESS has provided funds to enable teachers to attend relevant special education courses and seminars, provided school visits from the SESS team of co-ordinators, advisors and associates, subsidised national support organisations and supported groups of teachers wishing to organise their own specifically designed courses/seminars.

## **SESS Courses**

SESS provides support to schools through its team of advisors and associates - practicing teachers who are released from school to work with the SESS on a full-time/part-time basis. SESS provides for continuing professional development and support across a range of areas including Dyslexia, Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), Managing Transition, Challenging Behaviour, Mathematics for pupils with special educational needs and Differentiating Science for students with special educational needs. Teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing and teachers of the visually impaired can access specifically designed courses. Schools and individual staff members can avail of summer courses or places on summer courses in a wide variety of areas.

SESS also provides for supports through the use of external providers and/or guest lecturers. All support can be accessed through the website and/or the local education centre.

SESS, St. Angela's College, Sligo and Teacher Education Section, Department of Education and Skills are providing a recognised Post-Graduate Certificate/Diploma in Special Educational Needs (Autistic Spectrum Disorders) for support teachers working in the area of Autistic Spectrum Disorders in mainstream primary and post-primary schools and for teachers in special classes, schools/units and other relevant educational settings.

SESS, provides an extensive range of continuing professional development courses in teaching pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs). The courses are available at various locations throughout the country.

## **Resources**

The SESS also develops resource materials and DVDs for use in providing continuing professional development.

## **Online Training**

The SESS provides part-funding for online training for teachers across a range of areas including Inclusion, Dyslexia Autism, Attention Deficit Disorders, Positive Behaviour Support, Dyslexia,

Asperger's Syndrome, Teaching Troubled Children, General Learning Difficulties, Down Syndrome and Teaching Gifted and Talented Children.

Advice and support is available through writing directly to the SESS or telephoning Call Save 1850 200 884. Further information on all SESS supports is available on the SESS website. ([www.sess.ie](http://www.sess.ie)).

## Special Education Support Service

Address: The Rectory  
Cork Education Support Centre  
Western Road, Cork

Telephone Number: 1850 200 884 or 021 4254241

E-mail: [info@sess.ie](mailto:info@sess.ie)

### **Director**

Joan Crowley O'Sullivan

### **Deputy Directors**

Madeline Hickey

Sean O'Leary

### **Assistant National Co-ordinators**

Anne-Marie Byrne

Tom Daly

Fiona Kearney

Nora O'Connor

Ailbhe Dunne

Siobhan Kingston

Mary Downey

### **SESS Administrator**

Aideen Fitzgerald