

9th September, 2021.

The Secretary,
Board of Management and
School Principal in
each Community and Comprehensive School.

Members of the Executive of ACCS.

ACCS/Info Bulletin 37/21

Re: 1. Circular Letter 0045/2021 Covid Learning and Support Scheme (CLASS) Programme and 2. Covid Learning and Support Scheme (CLASS) Guidance for Post-Primary Schools.

1. Circular Letter 0045/2021 (attached) Covid Learning and Support Scheme (CLASS) Programme.

- a. The provision of additional teaching hours to schools to support their work in addressing learning loss among pupils/students arising from periods of school closures.

*While there is a range of support measures already in place in the education system to support the children most in need, including those with SEN and those at risk of educational disadvantage, the Department considers it is important to provide schools with the necessary capacity to **extend supports more widely to address the needs of those individual and groups of pupils/students who have been impacted most by Covid-19.***

- A once off temporary allocation for this school year is available from **11th October. Additional teaching:**
 - allocations are based on school enrolment numbers (bands) + will be provided on the staffing schedule under the title 'Covid Learning and Support Scheme'.
 - hours must be provided during the normal school day
 - may be provided by teachers on part time contracts up to 22 hours per week.

b. DE will provide schools with opportunities to share practice which is considered to be most effective in mitigating learning loss among pupils/students.

Queries on the content of this Circular should be emailed to the following email address: CLASSQueries@education.gov.ie

2. Covid Learning and Support Scheme (CLASS) Guidance for Post-Primary Schools.

This (attached) guidance from the Department of Education provides post-primary schools with a framework for providing a suite of supports for students who have been most impacted by Covid. It is being provided for schools in order to specify how the additional teaching hours should be used, as well as providing details of appropriate control and oversight measures required of schools.

It includes rationale, aims, identification of students using SSE/whole school approach. Hours can be used to support student wellbeing activities and to provide co-operative teaching/team teaching, withdrawal for small group or individual interventions, lunchtime activities including sports, music and drama.

Schools may not use the additional teaching resources to:

- Reduce the student-teacher ratio for general subject teaching
- Provide additional subject options for students
- Create smaller class groups which are subject specific e.g. Ordinary Level English/Mathematics etc.
- Provide supports to students who have not been identified through the processes outlined in the previous sections.

Is mise,
Le mór mheas,



John Irwin,
GENERAL SECRETARY.