



Circular 0044/2020

## Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2020/2021 – Special Education Component

### 1. Introduction

This Circular provides information in relation to the Home Tuition Grant Scheme and should be read carefully by applicants before completing the relevant Application Form, HTSEN1 or HTMED1.

The Circular contains information on:

- Purpose of the scheme
- Criteria for eligibility under the terms of the scheme
- Allocation of hours under the terms of the scheme
- Criteria for the provision of Grant Aid (Qualification and Vetting requirements of Tutors)
- Child Protection
- Grant Payment Procedures
- General Information
- Queries and appeals

This Circular, together with all relevant information, is available to download from the Department's website

<https://www.education.ie>

### Key Points of the Circular:

#### Section 2 sets out the purpose of the Home Tuition Grant Scheme.

- The purpose of the Home Tuition Grant Scheme is to provide funding towards the provision of a compensatory educational service for children who, for a number of specific reasons, are unable to attend school. However, it should also be noted that the Home Tuition Grant Scheme is not an alternative to a school placement and is provided in very limited and specific circumstances.

#### Section 3 sets out the Criteria for eligibility under the 3 categories of the scheme.

- Children aged between 2.5 and 3 years with a diagnosis of autism
- Children with special educational needs seeking an educational placement in a recognised school
- Students with a significant medical condition, or school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety, which has caused, and is likely to continue to cause major disruption to school attendance

#### Section 4 sets out the hours which are allocated under each category.

- Applicants should note the number of hours which are allocated under each category.
- Applicants should also note that allocations to siblings will normally be on a combined basis.

**Section 5 sets out the criteria for the provision of Grant Aid under the scheme, including the qualification, registration and vetting requirements of tuition providers.**

- It is a condition of the scheme that tutors are qualified in the relevant education sector and are registered with the Teaching Council for the duration of the approved tuition, up to and including issue of final payment.
- Where an applicant cannot source a fully qualified teacher the Department may permit the engagement of a person who is registered with the Teaching Council of Ireland and who has a degree (minimum Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications) in a relevant area.
- All tutors must be vetted by the National Vetting Bureau via the Teaching Council of Ireland's online vetting process, prior to the commencement of the delivery of tuition.
- All tutors must submit a completed Section 4, Form of Undertaking and Statutory Declaration.
- Parents/legal guardians are not permitted to act as tutors for their children under the Scheme.

**Section 6 provides information on Child Protection Procedures.**

**Section 7 provides information on Covid-19**

**Section 8 provides information relating to the Payment of the Home Tuition Grant.**

- A detailed payment information note is available at [www.education.ie/en/Parents](http://www.education.ie/en/Parents)
- It should be noted that home tuition funding will not be back-dated.

**Section 9 provides General Information in relation to the scheme.**

**Applicants should note the following:**

- Information supplied will be shared between various Government Departments and the National Council for Special Education.
- Unused hours from one week cannot be transferred to another week.
- Seeking a school placement and the enrolment of a child in school is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian.
- Where a parent/legal guardian has failed to enrol a child in a school placement as identified by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), a grant for Home Tuition will not be provided
- That the role of the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) is to confirm that the child meets the eligibility criteria, in the context of the Home Tuition Grant Scheme.
- Parents/legal guardians may, if it is their wish to do so, enter into either a new group arrangement with other parents/legal guardians of children for whom home tuition has been approved or a group arrangement where there is a current agreement with the Department. It is not however the role of the Department to establish such provision. Such arrangements must be sourced and procured by parents/legal guardians.
- Students who are undertaking study of subjects for Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations need to read carefully the requirements of the State Examinations Commission for practical coursework. If the State Examinations Commission requirements are not met, this may result in a student not being able to achieve all of the marks available for the subject.

**Section 10 provides Contact Details for queries and appeals in relation to the scheme.**

**Application form HTSEN1** is to be completed for children with Special Educational Needs seeking an educational placement or children aged between 2.5 and 3 years of age who have been diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

**Application form HTMED1** is to be completed for students with a significant medical condition or school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety.

## Privacy Statement

The Department of Education and Skills, as far as is practicable and having regard to the resources available, provides for education and training for people resident in the State at a level appropriate to meet the needs and abilities of those people. The main purpose for which the Department requires the personal data provided by you is to determine eligibility for the Home Tuition Grant Scheme. The personal data provided may be shared with the HSE, TUSLA (Child and Family Agency), National Council for Special Education (NCSE), the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), the Department of Education and Skills (including NEPS), the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Social Protection for the purposes of determining eligibility for the Home Tuition Grant Scheme, in processing payments and statutory deductions, to ensure there is no duplication of funding and for statistical purposes. The Privacy Notice outlining further information in relation to this Scheme can be found at <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Data-Protection/gdpr/parents-children/ath-2-06-2-07-10-6-privacy-notice-for-the-home-tuition-scheme.pdf>

Full details of the Department's Data Protection policy setting out how we will use your personal data or that of your child, as well as information regarding your rights as a data subject, are available at <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Data-Protection/gdpr/gdpr.html>.

Details of this policy are also available in hard copy upon request from the address stated on page 14.

## 2. Purpose of the scheme

The purpose of the Home Tuition Grant Scheme is to provide a compensatory educational service for

- (a) Early educational intervention for children with autism who meet the scheme's eligibility criteria
- (b) Students with special educational needs seeking an educational placement in a recognised school
- (c) Students, enrolled in schools, with a significant medical condition, or school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety, which has caused, and is likely to continue to cause, major disruption to their attendance at school

The preferred approach is that children are educated in school settings where children may have access to fully qualified teachers, individualised education programmes, special needs assistants, school curriculum with the option, where possible and appropriate, of full or partial integration and interaction with other students. Accordingly, Home Tuition is provided as an interim measure only for children for whom a placement in a recognised school is not available and should **not** be regarded as an optional alternative to a school placement.

### 3. Criteria for eligibility under the terms of the scheme

#### **Category (a) Early Intervention for Children with ASD (who have been assessed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder based on the DSM V or ICD 10 criteria)**

- (1) Children aged between 2.5 and 3 years of age with an ASD diagnosis.
- (2) Children between 3 and 4 years of age with an ASD diagnosis and for whom an early intervention placement is not available, as confirmed by the NCSE.
- (3) Children over 4 years of age with ASD diagnosis **and** a recommendation for an early intervention placement (who will not reach the age of 6 during the 2020/21 school year) and for whom an early intervention placement is not available, as confirmed by the NCSE.

Section 2(A) of the application form HTSEN1 should be completed by the applicant and the SENO for children aged between 2.5 and 3 years of age.

Section 2(B) of the application form HTSEN1 should be completed by the applicant and the SENO for children aged between 3 and 4 years of age and children over 4 years of age with a recommendation for an early intervention placement.

#### Early Intervention

The State supports early intervention for children with special educational needs through providing funding to a number of crèche/pre-school settings including:

- Early Intervention classes in mainstream and special schools
- Early Intervention settings in HSE funded service providers
- Pre-school settings supported by the Early Childhood Care & Education Scheme (ECCE) and the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)
- Pre-school settings supported by HSE grant aid or HSE funded Pre-School Assistant.
- Home Tuition Grant Scheme for children aged between 3 and 4 years of age with a diagnosis of autism where a placement in an Early Intervention setting is not available

In certain circumstances attendance in an early intervention setting (excluding Early Intervention classes in mainstream and special schools) may be supplemented by the Home Tuition grant, where a placement is not available in an Early Intervention Class. Parents/legal guardians are requested to declare if their child is availing of any of the schemes listed above.

If the child avails of one of the schemes, after the application for the Home Tuition grant has been approved, parents/legal guardians must notify this Department immediately.

**Please note that the maximum number of combined hours which can be availed of under the above schemes is 10 hours per week for children between 2½ and 3 years of age and 20 hours per week for children over 3 years of age.**

**Category (b) Children with Special Educational Needs seeking a school placement:**

Children with Special Educational Needs who are aged 4 years and over may avail of Home Tuition where a school placement is not available as confirmed by the NCSE, through the local Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO).

The availability of a school placement will be assessed by the NCSE having regard to, although not limited to, the relevant diagnosis and relevant professional report.

The Home Tuition Grant Scheme is an interim measure to provide for education until an educational placement becomes available. When a school placement becomes available the Home Tuition Grant will be discontinued.

A school placement can be:

- A place in a mainstream class in a mainstream school.
- A place in a special class attached to a mainstream school.
- A place in a special school.

Section 2(C) of the application form HTSEN1 should be completed by the applicant and the SENO.

**Category (c) Students enrolled in schools with a significant medical condition, or school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety, which has caused, and is likely to continue to cause, major disruption to their attendance at school.**

Eligibility is assessed having regard to, although not limited to, the following criteria

- The student's attendance levels during the previous school year.
- A relevant medical /relevant professional report - a separate report may be requested in some cases if required.

Disruption to school attendance solely due to the emergency closure of schools will not give rise to Home Tuition.

**Students at very high risk (extremely vulnerable) who cannot return to school due to Covid-19**

There may be some students for whom returning to school may not be feasible because the relevant public health guidelines indicate that they are at very high risk or extremely vulnerable.

Overall responsibility for ensuring that such students receive appropriate support to engage adequately with learning remains with the school with which they are enrolled.

Guidance is being issued to primary and post primary schools to support schools and to put arrangements in place for such students.

Parents of children at very high risk due to Covid-19 should contact their school so that arrangements can be put in place to support their child

### **School Phobia and related anxiety disorders**

In **exceptional cases** the Department will consider home tuition applications on behalf of students with diagnoses of school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety **which has caused, and is likely to continue to cause, major disruption to their attendance at school.** This exception will only apply where a continued absence from school is required to facilitate appropriate medical or therapeutic intervention with a view to the reintegration of the student in their school.

In relation to applications in respect of students with diagnoses of school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety, the principle that Home Tuition cannot be provided as an alternative to school applies.

Eligibility in exceptional cases is assessed having regard to, although not limited to, the following criteria:

- The student's attendance levels during the previous school year.
- Psychologist's/psychiatrist's report which should
  - i. Clearly confirm a diagnosis of school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety.
  - ii. Provide details of medical or therapeutic intervention plans in place with a view to reintegrate the student back into his/her school.
- Details of engagement with the relevant support agencies (e.g. School, National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), Education Welfare Officer (EWO), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), TUSLA (Child and Family Agency), HSE, NCSE).

**Note: It is not the role of diagnosing professionals to recommend Home Tuition as an alternative to school. Such recommendations will not be taken into consideration when determining an application.**

Section 2(A) of the application form HTMED1 should be completed by the Principal of the school and the medical practitioner for students with a significant medical condition.

Section 2(B) of the application form HTMED1 should be completed by the Principal of the school and a report should be supplied by the student's psychologist/psychiatrist.

HSE/NEPS Good Practice Guide in relation to school refusal is available on the DES website at the following link: <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Guides/School-Refusal/>

#### **4. Allocation of hours under the terms of the Scheme**

**(a) Children between 2.5 and 3 years of age (who have been assessed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder based on the DSM V or ICD 10 criteria).**

The maximum home tuition grant for children with ASD up to 3 years of age is based on 10 hours tuition per week.

**(b) Children with Special Educational Needs seeking a school placement**

The maximum home tuition grant for children awaiting a placement is based on 20 hours tuition per week subject to the appropriate school calendar. Where a child is attending an early intervention or private pre-school setting (see section 3a above), the home tuition hours allocated will be the difference between the hours approved in the pre-school or early intervention setting and the maximum home tuition hours for which the child would normally be eligible under the terms of this scheme.

Under the Scheme, in certain cases and where appropriate having regard to the criteria, the Home Tuition Grant may be extended until the end of July.

**(c) Students enrolled in schools with a significant medical condition, or school phobia and/or associated depression/anxiety, which has caused, and is likely to continue to cause, major disruption to their attendance at school**

Generally, grant aid based on a range of between 2 and 10 hours tuition may be approved with the allocation reflecting the level of attendance in the previous school year and whether the attendance was at primary or post primary level. As a general guide, up to 5 hours may be granted to children at primary level while students at post primary level may be granted between 2 and 10 hours.

#### **Allocation of hours for siblings**

All grant allocations to siblings will be reflective of the school grouping principle i.e. where the pupil teacher ratio in school settings can result in one teacher being allocated to a class of six students with children of mixed age and ability at the appropriate educational level (i.e. primary or post primary).

It is expected that Home Tutors should have the capacity to develop and deliver tuition in an environment which includes other children. However, the Department recognises that it may be difficult to cater for the significant differentiated educational needs of some siblings through a differentiated approach in tuition at home. To provide for this, the Department grants an increase in the combined allocation of hours for siblings on initial application.

The Department will consider applications for separate allocations where circumstances arise which are of an exceptional nature which may justify separate allocations to be made to siblings.

## 5. Criteria for the Provision of Grant Aid

### Qualifications of tuition providers

As tuition takes place outside the usual school structure it is important that home tutors are qualified to provide an educational programme. Accordingly, it is a condition of the scheme that parents/legal guardians **recruit a tutor who is qualified in the sector in which tuition is being provided, and is registered with the Teaching Council for the duration of the approved tuition, up to and including issue of final payment.**

Where all efforts have failed to secure the services of a teacher qualified to teach in the sector concerned, the Department may consider the engagement of a person who is registered with the Teaching Council and has a primary degree (minimum Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications) in a relevant area, e.g. Psychology.

It is a requirement of the Scheme that Tutors have to notify the Teaching Council of Ireland to make their details available on the Paymaster Interface through the Teaching Council website, in order for this Department to verify that teachers have current registration. This facility can be enabled on the 'My Registration' section of the Teaching Council's website [www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie).

To be eligible for the qualified rate of payment, a tutor must be registered and recognised by the Teaching Council in the sector for which the tuition is being provided. Tutors, who are retired, who are registered with the Teaching Council and who are in receipt of payment of a public service pension will be paid at the modified rate – See Appendix 1 for further details.

Where a tutor intends to provide Home Tuition to 2 or more children, a timetable detailing the provision of hours will be required before approval is given for the tuition to commence.

It is the responsibility of the parent/legal guardian to source a tutor at the earliest possible opportunity to allow for applications for registration/vetting to be made by the tutor to the Teaching Council, if necessary. This Department does not keep lists of tutors available to carry out Home Tuition. It may be helpful to contact local schools in the first instance, or alternatively, the Department is aware that many parents use education provider websites to advertise for tutors or indeed place advertisements in local newspapers or on shop/community notice boards.



**Parents/Legal Guardians are not permitted to act as tutors for their children under the scheme.**

**Home Tuition should not commence until the approval letter is received by the parent/legal guardian confirming the date of commencement of the tuition, and that the qualifications and identification of the nominated tutor/s have been formally approved in writing by the Department.**

A teacher who is availing of approved paid or unpaid leave from his/her employment is not eligible to deliver tuition. However, a teacher who is on Career Break or who is Job Sharing may be employed as a tutor for the Home tuition Scheme.

Under the terms of the Secondment Scheme, it is not permissible for a secondee to engage in employment other than with the host organisation without the consent of the host organisation, the employer and the Department/ETB.

Teachers who are not Irish, EU, EEA or Swiss citizens must have prior permission/appropriate work permits to work in this state before they may provide Home Tuition

### **Vetting Requirements for Tutors**

All tutors must be vetted by the Teaching Council of Ireland prior to commencing the delivery of tuition.

- Parents/legal guardians must satisfy themselves that the selected tutor/s have completed the vetting process via the Teaching Council's online vetting process.
- All tutors must be vetted by the Teaching Council since the date of the commencement of the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012, which was on 29th April 2016.
- Parents/legal guardians must request a newly issued vetting disclosure in circumstances where they are engaging the tutor for the first time.
- Where the parent/legal guardian has previously engaged the tutor and the tutor has been vetted since 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016, parents/legal guardians are advised to consider whether a newly issued vetting disclosure is necessary. The factors that the parent/legal guardian may wish to take into account in determining whether a newly issued vetting disclosure is required may include the following:
  - The period of time since previous vetting was obtained.
  - Whether there are any gaps in the person's employment/career/educational history which have not been satisfactorily accounted for
  - Whether comprehensive references have been made available in respect of previous employments

The above is not an exhaustive list of factors that parents/legal guardians may wish to take into consideration.

- Parents/legal guardians should note that all registered teachers can apply to be vetted through the Teaching Council of Ireland's website. The process is free of charge and can take between 2-4 weeks.

- Parents/legal guardians can confirm that tutors are vetted, and view the outcome and date of that vetting by viewing the result of the tutors vetting search, known as a Vetting Disclosure, which the tutor can share through the Teaching Council's secure online IT solution, called Digitary.
- Parents/legal guardians should be aware that vetting does not provide clearance for tutors to work with children, but simply provides particulars of any criminal record and/or specified information in respect of the tutor concerned or, where there is no criminal record or specified information, states this fact. The final decision in relation to the person's suitability, from a child protection perspective, to work with the child or children is a matter for the parents/legal guardians concerned. In that regard, parents/legal guardians should note that the outcome of Garda vetting is just one factor to consider in making that decision.
- Thorough checks of the person's suitability are an essential element of good child protection practice and are the responsibility of the parents/legal guardians. These should include, but are not limited to, seeking and following up of references and ensuring that any unexplained gaps in employment records/curriculum vitae are satisfactorily accounted for. Vetting should not take the place of those checks but must be used as part of same.
- Please note that each application for Home Tuition must be accompanied by a Statutory Declaration Form and a Form of Undertaking (Appendices 1 & 2 respectively of the relevant Home Tuition Application Form).
- Full information for tutors in relation to the process of applying for vetting is available at: <https://www.teachingcouncil.ie/Website/en/Vetting-Re-vetting/Guide-to-applying-for-Vetting-or-Re-vetting/Guide-to-applying-for-Vetting-or-Re-vetting.html>

## 6. Child Protection

The Children First Act 2015, which was fully commenced by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs from 11th December 2017, put elements of the Children First-National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children on a statutory footing.

[Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#) outlines the statutory obligations that apply to mandated persons such as registered teachers and the statutory obligations that apply to organisations (such as schools) under the Act. It also sets out the best practice (non-statutory) obligations which are in place for all individuals (including teachers) and for all sectors of society. The Children First Act, 2015 operates side-by-side with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

Information on Child Protection can be obtained on the Department's website at

<https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Information/Child-Protection/>

As Home Tuition takes place outside the usual school structure, parents/legal guardians should be mindful of additional risks or potential dangers involved in engaging tutors in a private arrangement. It is the responsibility of the parents/legal guardians to ensure that all appropriate and necessary child protection and welfare safeguards are in place in respect of the tutoring arrangement. (See also section 5 above regarding vetting requirements).

- Parents/legal guardians should satisfy themselves that tutors are aware of their child's medical or behavioural needs.
- It is the responsibility of parents/legal guardians to undertake all relevant checks regarding a prospective tutor's suitability to work with their child/children and to satisfy themselves regarding the suitability of the person to carry out tuition with their child.

## **7. COVID-19 Guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while participating in the home-tuition**

The Department has published COVID-19 Guidance to support parents, tutors and SNAs in putting measures in place that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 while participating in home-based tuition. This Guidance is available on the Departments website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) and will be updated should public health advice change.

This guidance aims to provide details of:

- General advice to prevent the spread of the virus
- Special Educational Needs
- Control measures

Where exceptional circumstances mean that a family cannot avail of in-home tuition due to Covid-19 the Department will allow tuition to be delivered by distance learning.

In such circumstances funding will issue for each hour of tuition that is provided through distance learning or e-learning.

## **8. Grant Payment Procedures**

- Parents/legal guardians engage tutors for the provision of Home Tuition in a private arrangement. The payments made to tutors on behalf of parents are subject to statutory deductions at source. The Department acts as a payroll agent only on behalf of the parents/legal guardians. This is to facilitate compliance with statutory deduction provisions including taxation and associated provisions.
- The Home Tuition Grant Rates are set out in **Appendix A**.
- The Home Tuition Grant will be paid directly to the approved tutor by the Department.

- Parents should not commence Home Tuition until they have received a grant approval letter from the Department confirming that they meet the terms and conditions of the scheme and the date of commencement of grant aid.
- Parents/legal guardians are advised that the home tuition grant will not be back-dated.
- The parent/legal guardian who has made application for home tuition must complete a Payment Claim Form. This form must be completed and signed by both the parent/legal guardian and the tutor at the end of each and every month where tuition was provided. The payment claim form is available at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). The signature provided by the parent/legal guardian may be used for verification.
- A false declaration for the purposes of claiming resources from the Department may result in the matter being referred by the Department to An Garda Síochána and, if appropriate, the Teaching Council.
- Parents/legal guardians as well as tutors should ensure that they are fully aware of how the grant will issue under this Scheme before any tuition is provided. A separate more detailed payment information note is available to parents/legal guardians and tutors on the website of the Department at <https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Services/Home-Tuition/Payments.html>
- Parents/legal guardians are advised that under no circumstances should they make payments to tutors for tuition provided by them under this scheme.
- Parents/legal guardians and tutors should also note that, under existing legislation, financial details in respect of this scheme are forwarded annually to the Revenue Commissioners, as home tuition payments are reckonable for taxation purposes.

### **How the grant is paid**

A separate more detailed payment information note is available to parents/legal guardians and tutors on the website of the Department at <https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Services/Home-Tuition/Payments.html>

### **Other issues relating to the payment of Home Tuition:**

To comply with existing legislation, the PPS numbers of all persons, both parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and tutor(s) must be supplied in order for payment to be considered.

## 9. General Information

- Parents/legal guardians will be required to complete the relevant Application Form and are requested to pay particular attention to the documentation/information that is required. It should be noted that sanction is only available on completion of the full application process which culminates in the issue of an approval letter confirming the date of commencement of the tuition.
- In certain cases, where no tutor has been nominated by the applicant, a letter of eligibility will issue to the applicant pending receipt of tutor details. However, tuition cannot commence until the tutor has been nominated by the applicant, relevant documentation received in the Department and full approval for the commencement of tuition is issued in writing.
- The Home Tuition Grant is for educational teaching interventions only. The provision of therapeutic services such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, psychological services, etc. will require engagement with the Health Service Executive (HSE). Home Tuition funding may not, under any circumstances, be used for such services. In this regard, the Department reserves the right to evaluate the education provision being delivered as part of the funding provided and all hours are approved subject to this condition.
- Please note that applications for Home Tuition are accepted in the knowledge that information supplied, including Personal Public Service Number (PPSN), may be shared between the HSE, TUSLA (Child and Family Agency), National Council for Special Education (NCSE), Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Education and Skills (DES) for stated reasons and to ensure that duplicate funding does not occur.
- Unused hours from any given week cannot transfer to a subsequent week. Parents/legal guardians are especially required to note this limitation on the weekly tuition available and tutors are required not to exceed this limitation with any one student. Home Tuition should reflect the school day and be provided between the hours of 9am – 6 pm. Home Tuition should not take place during school holidays, bank holidays and weekends.
- All references to “schools” or “school placements” refer to schools which are recognised under Section 10 (3) of the Education Act 1998.
- Under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme, all eligible children in the Republic of Ireland are entitled to two full programme years of free early childhood care and education in the period before they start primary school. In order to support children with a disability to access free pre-school, a major programme of supports, the Access and Inclusion Mode (AIM), has been introduced. The Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) is a programme of supports designed to ensure that children with disabilities can access the Early Childhood Care and Education

Programme in mainstream pre-school settings and can participate fully in the pre-school curriculum alongside their peers. Further details are available at <https://aim.gov.ie/>

- Seeking a school placement and the subsequent enrolment of a child in school is the responsibility of parents/legal guardians. However, parents/legal guardians who may need advice or are experiencing difficulties in locating a school placement should contact their local Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO). Your local SENO contact details are available on [www.ncse.ie](http://www.ncse.ie). Home Tuition will not be available where a school placement has been identified by the NCSE. Similarly, **failure to enrol a child in school will not give rise to eligibility under this scheme.**
- Parents/legal guardians may also wish to access “Choosing a School – A guide for Parents and legal guardians of Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs” – a publication which is accessible on the website of the National Council for Special Education – [www.ncse.ie](http://www.ncse.ie).
- If a school refuses to enrol a child, aged over 4, it is open to a parent to appeal the refusal to enrol their child through section 29 of the Education Act where there is a placement available in the school. Home Tuition may not be available in the event that the refusal to enrol has not been appealed.
- Please note that where a child has not availed of a placement available to him/her, they will not be eligible for any provision under the Home Tuition Grant Scheme at any point during the academic year nor will they be eligible under the terms of the July Education Programme.
- Should parents/legal guardians wish to enter into a group arrangement with other parents/legal guardians of children for whom home tuition has been approved, or if they wish to avail of a group arrangement where there is a current agreement with this Department, they must notify Special Education Section in advance for approval.
- Students who are undertaking study of subjects for Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations need to read carefully the requirements of the State Examinations Commission for practical coursework. The subjects with practical coursework are listed at <https://www.examinations.ie/?l=en&mc=ex&sc=he>. If the State Examinations Commission requirements are not met, this may result in a student not being able to achieve all of the marks available for the subject.

### **Role of the National Council for Special Education in the context of the Home Tuition Grant Scheme:**

In the context of applications made under the Home Tuition Grant Scheme, the role of the NCSE is to confirm that no placement is available for a child in a school setting. Should a special class or special school place be required the SENO can advise parents/legal guardians accordingly.

### **When Placements Become Available During the 2020/21 School Year:**

Places in mainstream classes, special classes and/or in special schools can become available during the school year – sometimes very early in the school year. In the event that a child over 3 years of age is being funded through the Home Tuition Grant Scheme, and a placement becomes available, the SENO will advise the parents/legal guardians of all children in the general school's catchment area, as well as the Department of Education and Skills, that such places are now available.

Parents/legal guardians in receipt of home tuition grant funding will be requested to provide evidence to the Department of their application to secure the available placement. The home tuition grant will be discontinued in any case where the parent does not apply for such placements.

In order for the home tuition grant to continue, parents/legal guardians must be able to demonstrate to the Department that such applications have been made within 3 weeks of being notified by the SENO and that the application to the school for enrolment has not been successful.

Where the parent's application for enrolment has been successful, the Department may consider, on request, the continuation of Home Tuition for a specified period and on a reduced basis to allow the child to transition into the new placement where such an extension of the provision is deemed necessary. However, this is entirely conditional upon the child being enrolled in the school.

## **10. Queries and Appeals**

### **Queries in respect of Home Tuition Claims and Payments can be addressed to:**

Special Needs and Tuition Grants, Department of Education & Skills, Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
N37 X659

Contact No: 090 648 3996

Email Address: [htpayments@education.gov.ie](mailto:htpayments@education.gov.ie)

### **Appeals in relation to the Home Tuition Grant Scheme can be addressed to:**

Appeals in relation to decisions under the Home Tuition Grant Scheme may be submitted in writing to the below address, quoting the Home Tuition Reference No., and outlining the reasons for the appeal along with additional documents or reports, as appropriate.

Home Tuition Unit, Special Education Section, Department of Education & Skills, Cornamaddy, Athlone,  
Co. Westmeath N37 X659

Contact No: 090 648 4187

Email Address: [special\\_education@education.gov.ie](mailto:special_education@education.gov.ie)

Email Address: [htpayments@education.gov.ie](mailto:htpayments@education.gov.ie)

Eddie Ward  
Principal Officer  
Special Education Section

July 2020



## **APPENDIX A**

### **The Home Tuition Grant Scheme**

#### **Grant Rates:**

There are two rates for the Home Tuition Grant based on the qualifications of the tutors engaged by Parents - the standard rate and the modified rate.

Grant rates may be subject to change. The grant rates applicable are as follows:

#### **Standard Home Tuition Grant Rate:**

For teachers registered with the Teaching Council where a

Qualified Primary School Teacher  
tutoring a primary student: € 38.33 per hour worked.

Qualified Post-Primary School Teacher  
tutoring a post-primary student: € 46.04 per hour worked.

#### **Modified Home Tuition Grant rate:**

Teachers who are not registered by the Teaching Council as qualified in the sector for which tuition is being provided, will receive the modified rate of payment. Teachers who are registered and qualified and who are in receipt of payment of a public service pension will receive the modified payment.

Modified rate: € 34.28 per hour worked

**Please note that these grant rates may be subject to alterations during the year and, consequently, the grant rate payable will be reflective of the rate applicable for the period in respect of which the claim is made.**