



Department of
Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Aoibhinn Treanor
Clerk to the Committee for Education
Room 375a
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

Tel No: (028) 9127 9611

Email: george.platt@education-ni.gov.uk

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Your Ref: 2026-25

Dear Aoibhinn

Actions from meeting with DE Officials on the SEN Delivery Plan

Thank you for your letter of 11 February requesting further information on behalf of the Committee following an oral briefing provided by officials on the SEN Reform Delivery Plan Enabling Actions held on 4 February 2026.

I note that the Committee were seeking further information on:

- Statistics held on pupils with SEN on reduced hours, and
- Nurses in special school settings.

Officials had noted 2 additional areas which they undertook to provide the Committee with further information on:

- The “Towards Inclusion in Northern Ireland” interactive pdf
- Local IMPACT Teams – Working from Home

Please find additional information requested in **Appendix A**.

George Platt
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

Statistics held on pupils with SEN on Reduced Hours

There is no field on SIMS to identify whether a child is on a reduced timetable.

However, this is an indicator which has been suggested for development, and we are looking into how this can be taken forward.

Nurses in special schools

The concerns raised by special school leaders about the increasing complexity of tasks delegated to classroom assistants, the challenges faced recruiting and retaining staff to undertake these duties, the reduction of on-site Children's Community Nurses and the availability of suitable spaces for provision of healthcare in special school settings have been recognised.

The Public Health Agency review of the population health needs of children with complex medical needs attending special schools, published in October 2025, reviewed the current arrangements in place and recommended a number of actions to ensure an efficient and consistent regional approach to supporting pupils with complex medical needs to access school and the curriculum through child specific care.

Work has commenced on taking forward the report's recommendations with the establishment of a cross-departmental working group overseen by the Joint Health and Education Oversight group (co-chaired by the Department of Education and the Department of Health) and the wider DoH Delegation Oversight Group, chaired by the Chief Nursing Officer.

Towards Inclusion in Northern Ireland interactive pdf

The European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education (EASNIE) published the interactive pdf "Towards Inclusion in Northern Ireland" on their website on 6 February 2026. See link below:

[Towards Inclusion in Northern Ireland](#)

Local IMPACT teams (LITs) - Working from Home

The Education Authority has confirmed that Local IMPACT teams are actively out in schools, which can sometimes make it challenging to reach them.

Schools are advised to contact SEND Central, and if an officer is unavailable due to being on-site, schools can complete an online contact form, and the relevant team will get in touch.

Schools can call for specialist advice and guidance between 9:00am and 4:30pm. To utilise this service, schools can dial the SEND Central number provided below and request to speak with a specialist from the specific SEND category needed.

SEND Central Contact form link:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=IIBpSmv1qkKriLaXIL-gxJy-XZ6Dz-5BgpSzb4ybY0VUNTdOTzNINlpWTFczVjFSRTBNSzBTV1ZUTC4u&route=shorturl>

SEND Central Telephone number – 02890317777