

Subject: Concern Regarding Lack of Support for Children with Dyscalculia in Northern Ireland

I am writing to express my disappointment and concern about the lack of provision for children with dyscalculia within the Northern Ireland education system. While there is recognition and structured support for other specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, there appears to be no equivalent framework or targeted assistance for pupils struggling with dyscalculia.

This absence of formal support means that children with genuine mathematical learning difficulties are often left without appropriate assessment, intervention, or classroom strategies to help them succeed. As a result, many of these pupils, my daughter included, experience frustration, anxiety, and a loss of confidence in their abilities—despite having strong potential in other areas.

It is deeply concerning that families and schools have so few resources to draw upon when a child displays the clear signs of dyscalculia. The lack of recognition and support not only affects individual children's progress but also contributes to long-term inequalities in educational outcomes.

I would urge the DE/EA to review this issue as a matter of priority and to consider introducing formal guidance, screening, and specialist support for dyscalculia—similar to what already exists for other specific learning difficulties. Every child deserves the opportunity to access a fully inclusive education that recognises and supports their unique learning needs.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter as part of your enquiry into SEN provision.

Kind regards,

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