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Dr Kathryn Aiken
Clerk to the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on the Mental Capacity Bill
Room 410
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Tel No: (028) 9127 9849
Fax No: (028) 9127 9100

Email: russell.welsh@deni.gov.uk

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Dear Kathryn

PROVISION FOR CHILDREN FOLLOWING RE-INTEGRATION TO THE CLASSROOM

In your letter dated 20 October, the Committee sought clarification on the provisions that exist for children who, having spent some time in Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS), are being integrated back into the classroom setting and need to catch up with missed classwork.

The Education Authority have advised how a child reintegrates back into the classroom setting after a period of absence due to mental health illness will be wholly dependent upon individual circumstances and in particular where this places the child in relation to the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

In the vast majority of cases, a Reintegration Plan will be agreed by all concerned parties in advance of the child's return and this will specify the extra support the school will provide. Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) professionals often make important contributions to these plans for example in the area of risk assessment and risk management. Where appropriate, EOTAS staff will assist the young person's reintegration.

The age of the pupil will also influence the Reintegration Plan. For example, in order to assist a Key Stage 4 pupil returning to the classroom, it may be deemed necessary to

disapply the curriculum. In some cases, over-age retention may be considered if the pupil meets criteria.

Yours sincerely

Russell

RUSSELL WELSH
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer