

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Paul Givan, Minister
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Eoin Tennyson MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

9 February 2026
AQW 38954/22-27

Eoin Tennyson MLA has asked:

To ask the Minister of Education to detail (i) any training courses available for classroom assistants; (ii) the number of places available on the training courses; and (iii) whether participants receive remuneration for accredited training courses.

ANSWER

The Education Authority has provided details of 68 training courses that are currently available to Classroom Assistants. I have deposited this information in the Assembly Library.

In addition to the Education Authority courses, as part of the delivery of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Reform Early Childhood intervention programme, 120 SEN-specific training places have been offered to assistants in pre-school and Foundation stage in 2025/26, with a further 240 places planned over the next 2 years.

Five Further Education colleges are engaged in delivering a range of accredited courses this academic year which are:

- OCN NI Level 3 Award in Working with Children and Young People with Special Needs;
- NCFE CACHE Level 3 Award in Supporting Children and Young People's Speech, Language and Communication; and
- OCN NI Level 2 Award in Learning Disability and Positive Support in Early Years.

Participants will receive a payment for attendance at and completion of the course, which is outside of contracted hours.

In October 2025, I also announced a new partnership with the Chartered College of Teaching, enabling both teachers and classroom assistants to access evidence-informed professional learning programmes. This partnership supports the TransformED Strategy commitment to helping education staff access and use research effectively and represents an important step in delivering on that commitment.

For 2025/26, funding has been made available for 100 classroom assistants to receive associate membership of the Chartered College and access to a range of tailored professional learning courses. This programme recognises the valuable contribution made by classroom assistants and supports their ongoing professional development as integral members of the school community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Givan".

Paul Givan MLA
Minister of Education

Question: To ask the Minister of Education to detail (i) any training courses available for classroom assistants; (ii) the number of places available on the training courses; and (iii) whether participants receive remuneration for accredited training courses.

The Education Authority has provided details of 68 training courses that are available to Classroom Assistants. This information is contained in the table below. Attendance at each of these courses is covered by the participants' normal salary and no additional renumeration is provided.

Course Title	Location	Number of participants
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Early Years / Foundation Stage	Face to Face	40
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Early Years / Foundation Stage	Face to Face	40
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Primary	Face to Face	40
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Primary	Face to Face	40
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Primary	Face to Face	40
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Post Primary	Face to Face	28
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Post Primary	Face to Face	28
Professional Learning & Development Programme for Classroom Assistants - Post Primary	Face to Face	40
EA Commercial Procurement Service (EACPS) Drop-In Sessions for New Specialist Provisions within a Mainstream School 25/26	online	1000
AAIS Post-Primary: - Tier 1 ASD Online Training for Post-Primary Professionals	online	Unlimited
AAIS Post-Primary: Tier 2 Module 1 Understanding Me (mainstream Post-Primary teachers and assistants)	online	Unlimited
AAIS Post-Primary: Tier 2 Module 2 Getting the Learning Environment Right (mainstream Post-Primary teachers and assistants)	online	Unlimited

AAIS Post-Primary: Tier 2 Module 3 Socially Speaking (mainstream Post-Primary teachers and assistants)	online	Unlimited
AAIS Post-Primary: Tier 2 Module 4 Emotionally Speaking (mainstream Post-Primary teachers and assistants)	online	Unlimited
AAIS Post-Primary: - Moving On up: Supporting the Year 8 Pupil with ASD with the transfer process to Post-Primary School	online	Unlimited
AAIS Post-Primary: - Understanding Sensory Processing and Autism for Post-Primary	online	Unlimited
AAIS Post-Primary: - Sensory Rooms : Recommendations for Post-Primary School Staff	online	Unlimited
AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of Zones of Regulation	online	Unlimited
AAIS Lego Based Club: Building social skills one brick at a time	online	Unlimited
AAIS Tier 2: The Early Years Toolkit	online	Unlimited
AAIS Sensory Processing and Autism Spectrum Disorder for staff in Pre-school Setting	online	Unlimited
AAIS Sensory Processing and Autism Spectrum Disorder for Early Years, Primary and Special School Staff	online	Unlimited
AAIS Sensory Rooms: Recommendations for Pre-School settings	online	Unlimited
AAIS Sensory Rooms: Recommendations for Early Years and Primary School Settings	online	Unlimited
AAIS Tier 1: Autism – The Basics for Early Years	online	Unlimited
AAIS Tier 2 Training Primary Toolkit (P3 - P7)	online	Unlimited
AAIS Moving On Up - Transfer Training for Primary Professionals	online	Unlimited
AAIS Tier 1 ASD Online Training for Primary Professionals	online	Unlimited
Autism Tier 1 Training for Early Years	online	30
Working Memory and Processing Difficulties for Classroom Assistants	online	Unlimited
Introduction to Phonics for Classroom Assistants	online	Unlimited
Introduction to Spellings for Classroom Assistants	online	Unlimited
Running Records	online	Unlimited

Using iPads to Support Pupils With Literacy Difficulties	online	Unlimited
An Introduction to Microsoft Reading Progress	online	Unlimited
What's Out There	online	Unlimited
Understanding the Alphabet for Classroom Assistants	online	Unlimited
Supporting the Effective Work of the Classroom Assistant in the Primary Phase	online	Unlimited
Read and Write Exam Mode	online	Unlimited
Dyslexia Awareness for Classroom Assistants	online	Unlimited
Supporting the Effective Work of the Classroom Assistant in the Post Primary Phase	online	Unlimited
Awareness and Management of toileting needs for children with	online	Unlimited
Helping Children Understand and Manage Their Emotions	online	Unlimited
Development and Implementation of a Social Behaviour Emotional Wellbeing Plan, Incorporating the Pupil's Voice	online	200
SBEW & Neurodiversity	online	300
Toolkit for New Classroom Assistants supporting Social, Behavioural and Emotional Wellbeing Needs (SBEW) - 1 Session	online	75
Supporting Pupils with a Statement for Social, Behavioural and Emotional Wellbeing Needs:	online	82
Supporting Pupils with a Statement for Social, Behavioural and Emotional Wellbeing Needs:	online	75
Solution Focused Approach to Supporting Social, Behavioural, Emotional & Wellbeing Needs	Face to Face	30
Solution Focused Approach to Supporting Social, Behavioural, Emotional & Wellbeing Needs	Face to Face	30
Solution Focused Approach to Supporting Social, Behavioural, Emotional & Wellbeing Needs	Face to Face	18
Solution Focused Approach to Supporting Social, Behavioural, Emotional & Wellbeing Needs	Face to Face	30
A Structured Model Empowering Peers To Enhance Inclusion	Face to Face	30
A Structured Model Empowering Peers To Enhance Inclusion	Face to Face	30

A Structured Model Empowering Peers To Enhance Inclusion	Face to Face	18
A Structured Model Empowering Peers To Enhance Inclusion	Face to Face	30
Whole School Positive Behaviour Strategies	Face to Face	100
Top Techniques: Meeting the Needs of Children in Early Years with Speech, Language and Communication Needs	online	Unlimited
Understanding Expressive Language in the Classroom	online	Unlimited
Understanding Receptive Language in the Classroom	online	Unlimited
Introduction to Phonics for Classroom Assistants	online	Unlimited
Theraplay Informed Practice - Activities to build attachment	online	300
Nurture in Five - Emotional Health Programme	online	300
Connect and Nurture (CAN)	online	300
Nurturing Principles and Practice - An Overview	online	Unlimited
What's Out There	online	Unlimited
Running Records	online	Unlimited
An Introduction to Microsoft Reading Progress	online	Unlimited