



St. Patrick's School, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Powerstown ETNS, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15



Covid-19 Considerations Summary for 2021 Language Class Referrals

Specific adaptations have been made to the **additional local criteria** section of the Referral to Language Classes Policy to facilitate referrals for the 2021/2022 academic year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on local Primary Care Speech & Language Therapy, Psychology and the National Educational Psychology Services. The **Department of Education and Skills (DES) criteria** for admission **remains the same** as previous referral years as per the DES Circular 38/07. These adaptations are summarised below.

Most Recent SLT Assessment (To meet DES criteria)	
Usual Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This must have been carried out within <i>6 months</i> of the application deadline (i.e. from September onwards). Standardised assessments should be used and <i>all subtest and core/index scores</i> should be reported.
2021 Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This must have been carried out <i>within 9 months</i> of the application deadline (i.e. from June 2020 onwards). A minimum of <i>one standardised ax score falling below 70</i> to be provided. This can be an index score (i.e. from CELF-P^{2UK} or CELF-4^{UK}) or an equivalent overall speech or language score (i.e. from DEAP, ACE, Rynell or PLS-4 assessments). This assessment can be completed face-to-face or via online Telehealth. SLTs are required to supplement this result with previous assessment results/findings and clinical observations, up to and including the past two years, to demonstrate the clinical markers for DLD present in the child's profile and therefore support the clinical diagnosis of DLD.
Psychology Assessment (To meet DES criteria)	
Usual Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An up to date psychology report (<i>within 2 years of referral</i>) which includes the results of a comprehensive assessment of intellectual ability, including non-verbal index/factor scores and subtest results.
2021 Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An up to date psychology report (<i>within 3 years of referral</i>) which includes the results of a comprehensive assessment of intellectual ability, including non-verbal index/factor scores and subtest results.

SLT Therapy (To meet Local criteria)

Usual Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A child must have attended a minimum of <u>8 individual therapy sessions</u> within 9 months of referral date.
2021 Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A child must have attended a minimum of <u>4 individual therapy sessions</u> (either within 9 months of referral date. These therapy sessions can be online via Telehealth, clinic based or a combination of both.

SLT Report (To meet DES and Local criteria)

No Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An up to date speech and language therapy report (written within three months of the closing date of 1st March) confirming a diagnosis of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) and outlining the need for the placement in the SSLD class.
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