

Planning for students with Additional Needs

Athboy Community School recognises additional needs in the following categories of students;

- Those who have already been identified as having AEN prior to transfer as per DES guidelines.
- Those who are identified after enrolment as requiring additional educational support while in the school.
- Students, who for a variety of reasons may require temporary special educational support, (e.g. long-term illness etc...).
- Students, who because of learning, social or behavioural problems may be considered vulnerable
- Provisions are in place for students whose first language is not English and who have been assessed and diagnosed with AEN according to DES Guidelines.
- Students who are exceptional able in one or more areas of the curriculum

These students are placed on the AEN register which is available for every member of staff on the AEN Team. It makes sense to highlight students with additional needs in your teacher book and/or seating plan. Have some form of register with students who require support, what their needs are and how you are meeting their needs. Consult with the AEN link teacher for the Year Group re Student Support Files for students in the “Few” Category of the Continuum of Support (This is based on the All, Some and Few categorisation indicating how much support they need, students in the “few” category require most support).

Student Support Files

A Student Support file is devised for students with Additional Education needs. All students involved in AEN support will have a tailored learning plan. Prioritising the needs of students informs the development of these plans. Once developed, these plans set clear learning/behavioural/social targets and are updated throughout the year.

Staff are briefed and informed about the plans by the AEN Coordinator and the relevant information is made available to staff on the AEN Team. Teachers and SNAs need to ensure that they are aware of the needs of students in their care.

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable Accommodations for State and In-House Examinations (RACE) Applications are made by the AEN Team for students with AEN sitting a State Examination. The school makes an application for students who meet the criteria as laid down by the SEC (State Examinations Commission) at Junior Cycle and these accommodations can be reactivated for Leaving Cert, with the school being satisfied that the student still has a need for the accommodation. Readers, scribes and other accommodations are available to students who qualify for such accommodations at mock exams and house exams. Teachers are asked not to raise false expectations of what reasonable accommodations their child might be granted. Referrals from teachers to the AEN departments are welcome, the State Examinations Commission makes the final decision.

Allocation of AEN Hours in ACS

An AEN Link Teacher will take responsibility for each year group. His/her responsibility is to work with the AEN Coordinator to ensure that the students in the year group get access to the support they need. This AEN Teacher will be aware of the needs of the students in the group and will monitor and oversee the Student Support Plans for the group. He/she will liaise with the Maths/English Teachers and the cooperating teachers who work with them.

Allocation of SNAs

SNAs will be assigned to each year groups or between year groups in mainstream and will work closely with the AEN Coordinator and the AEN Link Teacher for that year group to better support the student with access to SNA support but also to monitor other students in the group.

Co-Teaching

The model we will use for the coming years is that of co-teaching. The co-teacher actively plans classes with the subject teacher and records all support provided in each student's Support File.

Junior Cycle

There is a co-teaching model in place for Maths and English in which a second co-teacher works alongside the subject teacher where the need is greatest.

Senior Cycle

A co-teacher will be available in the block in English/Maths and the AEN Teacher in charge of the year will monitor the needs of students with AEN and give support where needed.

Gaeilge

Students exempt from the study of Gaeilge will be withdrawn and each student's needs are assessed in order to design a programme of extra English/Maths for Junior students and a broader range of subjects for senior students.

