

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVISION

Children with learning difficulties have many needs in common with other children in respect of their learning and personal development. Whilst recognising that particular needs have to be met in an individual way, at Lisnagelvin we realise that all our children should participate as fully as possible in the school curriculum and other activities. Care is taken by the staff to match the curricular provision for all children to their particular stage of development and to take account of any difficulties or special talents that they show.

Mrs. L Doherty has overall responsibility for Special Needs Education in the school and works closely with class teachers and others to provide a specific learning programme for each child. She is very ably assisted by Mrs. A Temple. At times they work alongside the child's teacher in the classroom and on other occasions they withdraw small groups of children or individuals to teach specific skills and knowledge.

The Western Education and Library Board has allocated sixteen Special Needs Classroom Assistants who work with individual children under the direction of the class teachers and Mrs. L. Doherty.

The school liaises with various agencies. An educational psychologist visits the school several times each year to assess pupils. On occasions she recommends that some children should receive additional help from outreach teachers from the Reading Centre, Woodlands and Belmont School on a one-to-one basis. This help is normally given in school. Other children are given programmes of study to help their needs.

Parents whose children have special needs are encouraged to meet with Mrs.L.Doherty from time to time and a Paired Reading Programme involving a group of parents operates successfully. Other opportunities are provided for parents and teachers to meet in an informal manner to share information about each child's background and difficulties.

With effect from September, 1999, Lisnagelvin has implemented all aspects of the Code of Practice for Special Needs, (N.I.), identifying children's special needs, consulting with parents, collecting relevant information, initiating individual education plans and consulting with the appropriate authorities to meet these needs.

Since September 2005 the school has actively embraced the principles and practices of the Special Educational Needs Disability Order.