

## Press release

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# Minister Foley announces second strand of €5 million pilot programme of counselling and wellbeing/mental health supports

From [Department of Education \(/en/organisation/departments-of-education/\)](/en/organisation/departments-of-education/)

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Minister for Education Norma Foley has today (22 June) announced details of the second strand of a landmark programme of counselling and wellbeing/mental health supports to be piloted in a number of primary schools across the country from September 2023.

Strand two of the significant pilot programme will see the establishment of a new type of support for clusters of primary schools, as well as the introduction of Education Wellbeing / Mental Health Practitioners who will work under the direction and supervision of the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS).

Clusters of primary schools in Cork, Carlow, Dublin 7 and Dublin 16 will have the opportunity to take part in the second strand of the pilot programme.

The supports to be provided will focus on strengthening whole-school preventative approaches and include the provision of psycho-education support for parents and teachers, as well as the provision of early intervention to groups of children or individual children with mild or emerging needs, using low-level therapeutically informed approaches.

The outlining of details of the second strand of this watershed programme follows an announcement last month that the first strand of the pilot will include the provision of an allocation of one-to-one counselling sessions for primary schools across counties Cavan,

Laois, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan and Tipperary, via access to a Department of Education-approved counsellor.

Minister Foley said:

"The Department of Education is committed to supporting the emotional wellbeing of children and young people in our schools across Ireland, to help give them the best chance of being happy in their lives and reaching their full potential. I am very pleased, therefore, to have secured €5 million from Budget 2023 for this programme and today to be announcing details of the second strand to provide new wellbeing / mental health supports to schools on a pilot basis for the 2023 / 2024 school year.

"Over half a million children in Ireland attend our primary schools – and all of them can experience challenges to their mental health and wellbeing. Many experienced particular upheaval in their young lives during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pilot will supplement services currently being provided in schools, including by the support services of the department and the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS), as well as the wider mental health supports available to children and young people through the health services, in working to help mitigate the mental health challenges experienced by children in our schools so that they can flourish.

"The department looks forward to supporting the schools involved in this new and exciting initiative and will shortly be in touch with those schools to provide further detailed information on how it will progress. The Department of Education will work closely with the Department of Health and the HSE throughout the pilot and, together, will continue to explore ways to improve supports for children and young people, including around increased awareness, promoting help-seeking behavior and sign-posting to the wide range of available services."

Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion Josepha Madigan said:

“This announcement of details of the second strand of this landmark pilot programme of counselling and wellbeing / mental health supports will be welcomed by primary schools, including special schools, across the country, working to support the mental health and wellbeing of their pupils.

“The commencement of this pilot programme in September 2023 highlights a clear commitment to strengthening preventative work across our school communities to help ensure all children have the very best possibility of realising the full extent of their own unique potential.”

## Notes

### List of schools in Strand Two

Roll	Name	County	Eircode
16938E	Fr. Cullen Memorial NS	Carlow	R93TR98
17053P	Bishop Foley Memorial School Boys Senior School	Carlow	R93P825
17501Q	Bennekerry National School	Carlow	R93D535
17756D	Ballinabranna Mixed NS	Carlow	R93T9N4
18363M	S N Muire Gan Smal	Carlow	R93FP57
18424G	Scoil Nais Iosef Naofa	Carlow	R93HP99
18615N	S N Ceatharlach	Carlow	R93A504
19315G	St Laserian's Special School	Carlow	R93N704
19477J	Holy Family BNS	Carlow	R93VX27
19478L	Holy Family GNS	Carlow	R93X793

19811S	Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc	Carlow	R93PX92
19958C	S N Naomh Fhiach	Carlow	R93KT68
20295K	Carlow Educate Together NS	Carlow	R93TW74
17796P	Our Lady's National School	Carlow	R93D340
01215C	Newtown Dunleckney Mixed	Carlow	R21PP74
02124E	Scoil Nais Molaise	Carlow	R93NX05
13105L	St. Bridget's Monastery Boys Senior School	Carlow	R21PR62
01116A	Baile an Chuilinn NS	Carlow	R21Y803
11135K	St Mary's NS	Carlow	R21DX34
18183K	Queen of Universe NS	Carlow	R21T280
19784S	St. Laserians Mixed NS	Carlow	R93YY72
13696O	St. Vincent's Convent NS	Cork	T23PC43

17667E	S N Padraig Naofa	Cork	T34AY74
18786R	Scoil Iosagain	Cork	T23EW70
20399W	Scoil Chroí Íosa	Cork	T23E722
08393P	S N Rath Dubh	Cork	T23X029
20354A	Cara Junior School	Cork	T23TA12
11249C	Burnfort NS	Cork	P51FN32
13779S	S N Dhrom Athain	Cork	P51HW92
13483U	S N Ath Na Lionta	Cork	P51PF72
16680O	Scoil Colmcille	Cork	T23H968
19256Q	Scoil Ghobnatan	Cork	P51KW86
16159D	Convent Girls Senior National School	Cork	P51D958
17887S	S N Naomh Padraig Boys Senior School	Cork	P51TD30
20038N	Scoil Aiseiri Chríost	Cork	T23E634
20440Q	Mallow Community National School	Cork	P51 P5V2
18883P	S N Iosagain	Cork	P51TD36
19410A	St Killian's Special School	Cork	T23NV96
19886D	Gaelscoil Thomais Daibhis	Cork	P51EY22
20151J	Gaelscoil Mhuscraí	Cork	T23EA29
19714U	Mhuire ar Chnoc hAoine	Cork	T23AH26
16695E	Scoil na mBrathar Boys Senior School	Dublin 7	D07P529
20453C	Broombridge Educate Together National School	Dublin 7	D07TD93
16988T	Christ The King BNS	Dublin 7	D07EF63
16989V	Christ The King Girls Senior School	Dublin 7	D07HV12
17459U	Christ The King I G	Dublin 7	D07HV12

17466R	St Catherine's Infant School	Dublin 7	D07TP21
17912O	S N Eoin Bosco Buach	Dublin 7	D07V654
18632N	S N Eoin Bosco Nai Buac	Dublin 7	D07WP22
20131D	Educate Together NS	Dublin 7	D07PY50
20152L	North Dublin Muslim NS Project	Dublin 7	D07P967
20495S	Holy Family School for the Deaf	Dublin 7	D07TH79
17464N	Fionnbarra Naofa BNS	Dublin 7	D07A522
19039I	St Vincent's Home National School	Dublin 7	D07N229
17465P	Dominican Convent Girls Senior School	Dublin 7	D07V045
20035H	St. Gabriel's NS	Dublin 7	D07CX50
20436C	St. Mary's Primary School	Dublin 7	D07HF10
05933G	Presentation Primary School	Dublin 7	D07YF43
17367P	Mary, Help of Christians GNS	Dublin 7	D07EH68
19409P	Casa Caterina Special School	Dublin 7	D07YY30
09932B	Stanhope St. Convent	Dublin 7	D07DY60
20047O	Gaelscoil Bharra	Dublin 7	D07CF72
20091R	St. Peter's NS	Dublin 7	D07F75C
03359N	Ballyroan BNS	Dublin 16	D16YX54
19723V	Queen of Angels Primary School	Dublin 16	D16AX05
11638N	Whitechurch NS	Dublin 16	D16Y1X3
19314E	Scoil Na Maighdine Mhuire Boy	Dublin 16	D16CX60

19319O	St. Olaf's National School	Dublin 16	D16E067
19396J	Na Maighdine Muire Girl	Dublin 16	D16C820
19437U	Scoil Naithi	Dublin 16	D16EK63
19537B	St. Attracta's Junior NS	Dublin 16	D16P891
19716B	St. Attracta's Senior NS	Dublin 16	D16HW66
20372C	Saplins Special School Rathfarnham	Dublin 16	D16YK88
19114T	St. Patrick GNS	Dublin 16	D16XK80
19490B	Scoil Mhuire	Dublin 16	D16V043
19474D	Scoil Colmcille Naofa	Dublin 16	D16H337
19742C	St. Colmcille Senior NS	Dublin 16	D16W8K0
20043G	Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna	Dublin 16	D16HR26

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