



## Policy Proposals Consultation Document: Children and Young People's Version

*Every School a Good School*

# The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs and Inclusion

August 2009



Department of  
**Education**

[www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)

AN ROINN  
**Oideachais**

MÄNNYSTRE O  
**Lear**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Note From The Minister For Education, Caitríona Ruane.....

My name is Caitríona Ruane and I am the Education Minister. My job is to make sure that you, and all boys and girls, do really well at whatever school you go to.

I know you all do your best at school and some girls and boys do really well indeed. But there are some girls and boys who find it difficult to learn or who find life at school hard. Some of these children find that they don't do well when they leave school.

I don't want this to happen anymore so we are working on a plan (proposals) to help everyone who needs it.

We have some ideas and you can read about them in this booklet. I really want to find out what you think of our ideas. I also want to find out what ideas you have about things that you think could help you and your friends.

We will read all your ideas and see how we can put them into our final plans. I'm really looking forward to hearing from you.

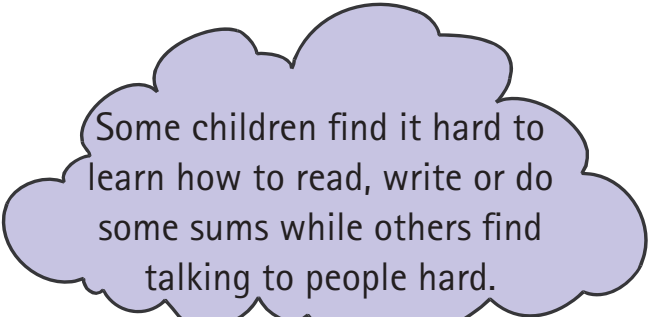
Thank you



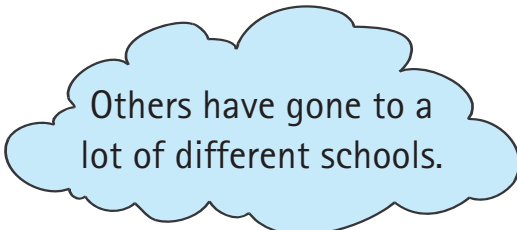
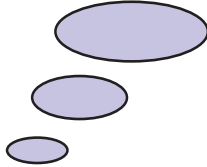
Caitríona Ruane MLA  
Minister for Education



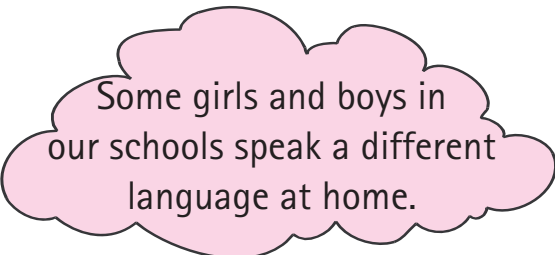

# INTRODUCTION



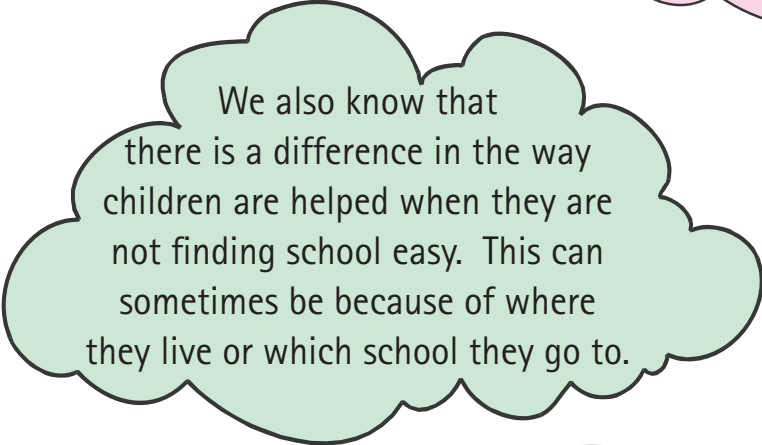

Some children find it hard to learn how to read, write or do some sums while others find talking to people hard.



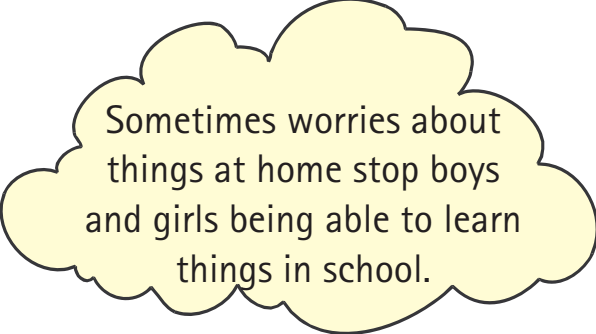
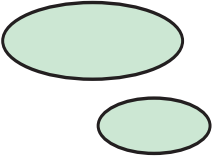
Others have gone to a lot of different schools.



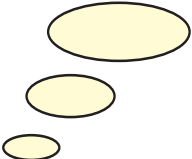
Some girls and boys in our schools speak a different language at home.



We also know that there is a difference in the way children are helped when they are not finding school easy. This can sometimes be because of where they live or which school they go to.



Sometimes worries about things at home stop boys and girls being able to learn things in school.



## WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

If a girl or boy is finding school hard, we want them to get help as soon as possible before things get even harder.

We are going to make sure all schools work in the same way to help children do better.

We want to make sure that every girl and boy gets the help they need to do their best in school when they need it.

We want to make sure that all girls and boys get an equal chance to do as well as they can at school.

We want everyone to work together to help all children and young people.

If a school has a good way of working which helps girls and boys learn, we need them to tell other schools all about it so that they can do it also.

We have been looking at what needs to be made better.

*All of these points have been put into our new plan.*

# WHO WILL DO WHAT?

## Schools

- Your teachers should see if you are finding it hard to do your work.
- Your teachers will listen if you need to tell them that you cannot do your work.
- Your school will provide different types of help for children who are finding school hard.
- If the things do not get better then the school will try another way of helping.
- Schools will be asked to work closely with other schools to make sure everyone is working together to help all children do better.

## Parents

- Children do better at school when their parents, friends and family help them with their schoolwork.
- We will look at the ways in which they can help you learn.

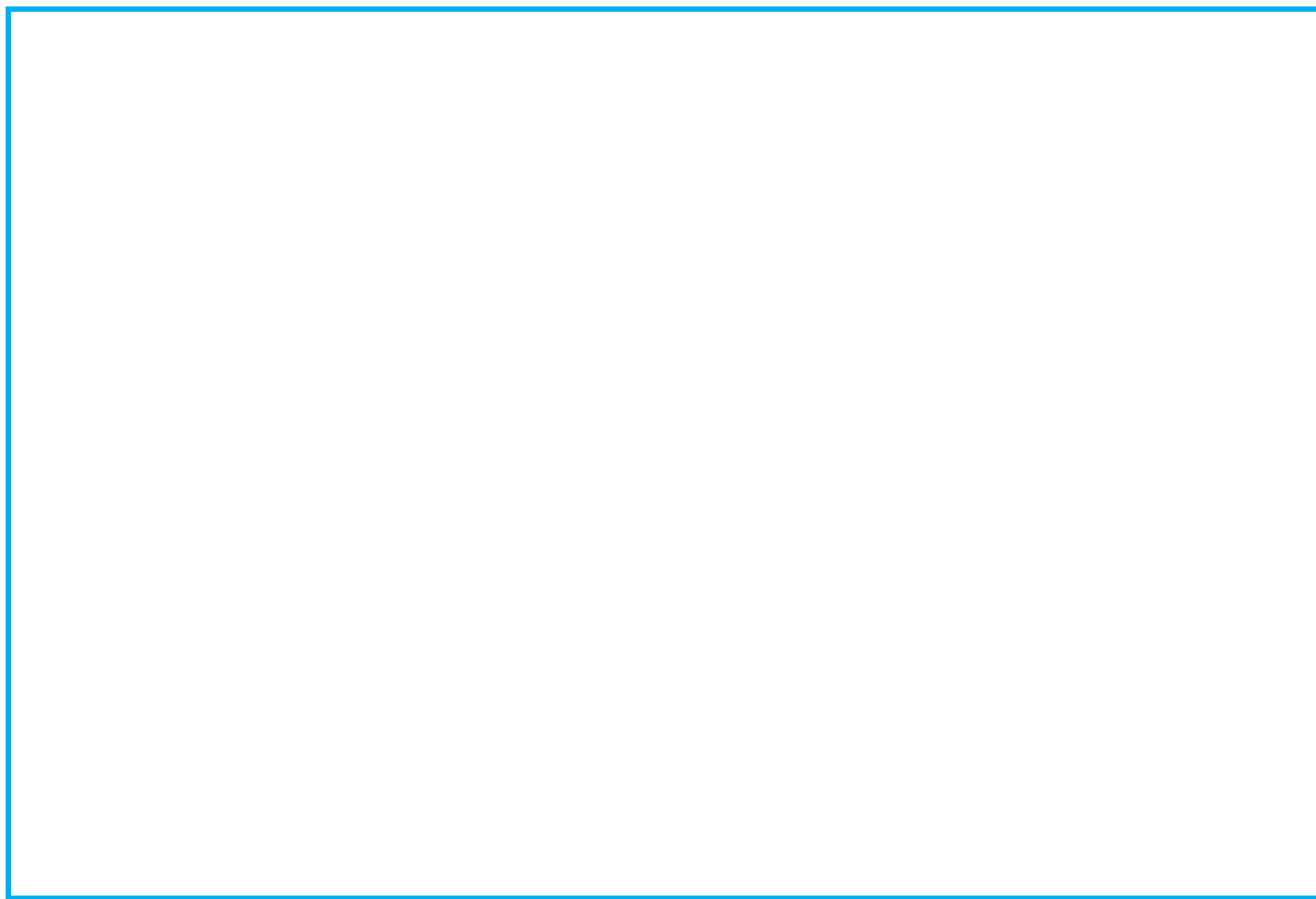
## Education Support Bodies

- The job of the Education and Library Boards (ELBs) and the new Education and Skills Authority (ESA) is to see how well a school is doing in helping children who need help.
- If the school is not working very well, they will find out why not and help the school to make things right.

## The Department of Education (DE) and the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)

- DE decides what schools will do for children and provides the money for the schools to help children.
- The DHSSPS makes decisions about health and social care and provides the money for therapists, for example, speech therapists.
- Both Departments will work closer together to make sure that children get the help they need when they need it.

What are your ideas? Please write your suggestions here:  
your school can collect them and send them to us



Or you can complete a form on our website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk)

Or send your thoughts to our email address: [seninclusion@deni.gov.uk](mailto:seninclusion@deni.gov.uk)

Please post to: The Review of SEN and Inclusion Team, Room G18, Department of  
Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR







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