## JMB AMCSS SECRETARIAT

## Press Release

## 13th June 2012

## Protect the Most Vulnerable Children in the Education System.

Details of the special educational needs – resource hours and SNAs – allocation for the school year 2012/13 for each post-primary school was issued today, Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

The Joint Managerial Body is very disappointed that for a second year in a row the allocation of resources to children with special educational needs has been cut.

"From the point of view of the low incidence allocation the situation is totally unacceptable. Pupils with low incidence special educational needs, such as autism, will receive only 85% of the hours recommended in an assessment of the child's needs by an educational psychologist. For example, a school will receive 4 hours 15 minutes per week in 2012/13 for a pupil who was recommended 5 hours resource support by the educational psychologist. In 2011/12 a school received 4 hours 30 minutes per week for the same pupil" says Ferdia Kelly, the JMB General Secretary.

Ferdia Kelly, states that "The high incidence allocation for post-primary schools for the new school year will be based on 95% of the allocation for high incidence allocation in the school on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The allocation last December was 90% of the previous year's allocation. A high incidence allocation is provided for pupils with special educational needs such as dyslexia".

The JMB has expressed grave concern at the further erosion of special educational needs supports for the most vulnerable young people and schools. "If the policy in this country is to support and integrate young people with special educational needs attending mainstream schools, then it is the view of the JMB that the young person and school must be properly resourced so that the young person receives an appropriate education" claims Ferdia Kelly.

"The reality is that each child who has been diagnosed with a low incidence special educational need will receive a total of 25 hours less support in 2012/13 than she/he would have received in 2010/11. Is this just and fair?" asks Ferdia Kelly.

This time last year the Minister for Education and Skills promised 100% support for pupils with special educational needs. The reality is very different.

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