

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANT

JOB DESCRIPTION

QUALIFICATIONS:

The minimum required standard of education for appointment to the post of Special Needs Assistant is:-

Essential:

- A FETAC level 3 major qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications,
Or
- A minimum of three grade Ds in the Junior Certificate, OR Equivalent

Desirable:

- A QQI Level 5 / 6 Full Major Award qualification in Special Needs Assistant and / or Child Care
A major award usually consists of 8 minor awards and 120 credits

Or

A Component Certificate(s) in Special Needs Assistant Level 5 /6 or other relevant disciplines plus 12 months verified relevant experience

A component certificate is a minor award and 15 credits

MSLETB requires that you meet both essential and desirable criteria, in order to be appointed to a Special Needs Assistant Post within the organisation.

DUTIES OF SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS:

Special Needs Assistants are recruited specifically to assist schools in providing the necessary non-teaching services to pupils with assessed educational needs. Their duties are assigned by the Principal acting on behalf of the ETB. Their work is supervised either by the Principal or another teacher as determined by the Principal. Those duties involve tasks of a non-teaching nature such as:

1. Preparation and tidying up of classrooms
2. Assisting school children to board and alight from school buses. Where necessary travel as escort during school hours on school buses may be required.
3. Special assistance as necessary for children with particular difficulties e.g. helping special needs pupils with typing or writing or computers or other use of equipment.
4. Assistance with clothing, feeding, toileting and general hygiene and being mindful of health and safety needs of the pupil.
5. Assisting on out-of-school visits, walks, examinations and similar activities.
6. Assisting the teachers in the supervision of pupils during assembly, recreation and dispersal from the classroom for one reason or another.

7. Accompanying individuals or small groups who may have to be withdrawn temporarily from the classroom for one reason or another.
8. General assistance to the class teachers, under the direction of the Principal, with duties of a non-teaching nature. (Special needs assistants may not act as either substitute or temporary teachers. In no circumstances may they be left in sole charge of a class / group of children).
9. Participation with school development planning, where appropriate, and co-operation with any such changes with policies and practices arising from the school development process.
10. Engagement with parents of special needs pupils in both formal and informal structures as required and directed by school management.
11. Other duties appropriate to the grade as may be determined by the needs of the pupils and the school from time to time. Special Needs Assistants may be re-assigned to other work appropriate to the grade when special needs pupils are absent or when particular urgent work demands arise.

Special Needs Assistant Pay Scales:

New Entrants – employed after 01.01.2011 – €31,664 - €50,161* / pro-rata (revised scales w.e.f. 01.06.2026)

Employed before 01.01.2011 – €33,844 - €50,161* pro-rata.