

# NABMSE NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the third edition of the NABMSE e-newsletter. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to your BoM.

## Partial Re-Opening of Schools

### Statement from NABMSE - 20 January 2021

NABMSE, as the voice of Management in Special Education, is very disappointed that it was not possible to find a formula by which all special schools and special classes could open tomorrow. This is particularly so, as we know the immense difficulty and burden this is creating for families all around the country.

Our members, our school Boards of Management have a duty of care to the welfare and wellbeing of our pupils and their families, and all the staff who provide the service in those schools.

We understand the disappointment of the announcements made last night and we sincerely hope that we get a more positive announcement in the immediate future.

Everyone involved in these negotiations is seeking a way forward and we, in NABMSE, are a solution focused organisation, who wish to seek a way forward. All our school Boards of Management not alone have a responsibility for the safety of pupils and staff in the school, but also to families and communities as we deal with this particular virus.

NABMSE will be continuing discussions with the Department of Education and Skills and all stakeholders so as to find a much-needed solution. Our Boards of Management are determined to do everything possible to get our schools opened for the benefit of our children and their families – that has been and is our ongoing priority.

Caroline Quinn  
Chairperson  
NABMSE

## Joint Committee on Education Report

In October 2020, NABMSE made a written submission to the Joint Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science on the topic of “Ensuring that Schools are open in a manner which is both safe and sustainable”.

The Joint Committee Report has published its report entitled “*The Impact of COVID-19 on Primary and Secondary Education*” today and it can be found [here](#).



Pages 17-18 discuss Supports Needed for Special Education Provision, while SEN students are also referenced in the School Transport section on pages 20-21.



## Submission to the Oireachtas (Disability Matters)

On 15 January 2021, NABMSE was invited to make a submission to a Joint Committee on Disability Matters (Mr Michael Moynihan, T.D., Chair).

The Joint Committee met on 20 January 2021 to discuss the recent Government decision to delay the return to school of children with special educational needs in relation to issues such as:

- a) the impact of the decision to delay the return to school of children with special educational needs;
- b) the measures that need to be put in place to ensure the sustainable return to school and support of those with special educational needs.

NABMSE made a submission to the Joint Committee and will continue to advocate at all levels on behalf of special education.

