



20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Ms. Ivana Bacik TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re Ref: PQ 32703/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if a speech and language therapist will be appointed at a school (details supplied) for the duration of a period of leave. Details supplied - Good Shepherd National School, Churchtown.**

Dear Ivana Bacik TD,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There exist two language classes within the Good Shepherd National School - the Junior and Senior divisions, each benefiting from an allocation of 0.6 WTE Senior Speech and Language Therapist.

The Senior Speech and Language Therapist for the Junior Language Class is on maternity leave since 24th September 2024, returning on 24th November 2025. Approval for a temporary replacement was granted in August 2024. A bespoke recruitment campaign resulted in a temporary Senior Speech and Language Therapist starting on 16th January 2025. This individual was offered a permanent position elsewhere but will remain in the Junior Language Class until the end of the academic year. The position will be vacant from 30th June 2025 and has been proposed for approval to fill from 30th June to 24th November 2025, when the permanent post holder returns. The proposal is under consideration within the Pay and Numbers strategy.

The Senior Speech and Language Therapist for the Senior Language Class assumed her role on 2nd December 2024, following the resignation of her predecessor in June 2024. Approval to fill the position was delayed during the summer but granted in August 2024. The Senior Speech and Language Therapist is expected to begin maternity leave in October 2025. The role has been proposed for backfill, currently under evaluation within the Pay and Numbers strategy.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Adrienne Doherty,  
General Manager, Primary Care  
HSE Dublin South and Wicklow