

WHAT IS SPECIAL EDUCATION?

Special Education is the educational provision for children whose levels of functioning deviate from the norm, such that special programmes are necessary to facilitate or foster optimum learning.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To secure learning opportunities for students with special needs throughout the education system.
- ◆ To plan, implement and monitor Special Education programmes and services
- ◆ To secure access, equity and quality education for students with special needs.

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

The Unit was established in the Ministry of Education in January 1989 and is located at Caenwood Centre, 37 Arnold Road, Kingston 4. Prior to January 1989, registered Special Education schools were monitored by the Early Childhood Unit.

The Unit operates a Braille and Large Print Programme that reproduces all national examinations and primary curriculum support materials for students and teachers who are visually impaired.

The Unit has a staff compliment of six officers, a secretary, a driver and a technician.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The Unit supervises Special Education schools, units and programmes island wide. The schools are categorized as Government-owned and Government-aided. There are also private community-based facilities some of which are partially funded by the government. There is at least one Special Education facility in each parish. An average of 3,400 students are enrolled in these facilities and served by an estimated 300 teachers. The teacher pupil ratio varies from 1:5 to 1:16 depending on the type and severity of learning and behaviour challenges.

The Unit offers technical support, curriculum supervision, monitoring services and facilitates training, net-working, assessment and programme planning. It is a resource base for expertise, advice and hands-on information across all levels of the education system. This necessitates collaboration with all other units within the Ministry, agencies offering services to persons with special needs and other stakeholders.

WHO ARE SERVED

The programme encompasses education for students 3 – 21 years with various special needs including:

- ◆ Deaf & Hard of Hearing (D/HH)
- ◆ Visual Impairment (V.I.)
- ◆ Physical Impairment (P.I.)
- ◆ Intellectual Disability (I.D.)
- ◆ Learning Disabilities (L.D.)
- ◆ Emotional & Behavioural Disorders (EBD)
- ◆ Giftedness
- ◆ Autism

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Supervision and training of resource teachers in regular schools.
- ◆ In-service training for teachers in special and regular schools.
- ◆ Development of partnerships with educational institutions, non-government organizations, service agencies and the private sector
- ◆ Referrals for educational assessment
- ◆ Sensitization for teachers, parent groups, Administrators, Education Officers, Principals and Board Members
- ◆ Promotion of Special Education Intervention across the curriculum.
- ◆ Capacity building/Staff development exercises for schools
- ◆ Assistance in establishing Resource Room programmes in regular Primary schools
- ◆ Facilitation of the granting of accommodation for national examinations
- ◆ Facilitation of student placement in public and private schools
- ◆ Supervision of national examinations for students with special needs
- ◆ Training of examination support personnel

CATEGORIES OF SCHOOLS

Government Operated

- ♦ Carberry Court Special School
- ♦ Salvation Army School for the Blind
- ♦ Randolph Lopez School of Hope
- ♦ Woodlawn School of Special Education
- ♦ Edgehill School of Special Education
- ♦ Windsor School of Special Education
- ♦ Llandilo School of Special Education
- ♦ St Christopher's School for the Deaf
- ♦ Danny Williams Primary and Pre-school
- ♦ Lister Mair Gilby High
- ♦ Lyssons Centre of Excellence

Government Owned Units

- ♦ Hazard Primary
- ♦ Duncans All-Age
- ♦ Lyssons Primary
- ♦ Ocho Rios Primary
- ♦ Mico Practising Primary and Junior High
- ♦ Seaforth Primary
- ♦ Green Pond Primary
- ♦ Old Harbour Primary
- ♦ Catherine Hall Primary
- ♦ Hope Valley

REFERRAL AGENCIES

Mico Child Assessment Research in Education (C.A.R.E.) Centre

5 Manhattan Road, Kingston 5
929 - 7720 - 2

Jamaica Society for the Blind

111 1/2 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6
927 - 3760 / 927 - 6457- 9

Jamaica Association for the Deaf

Hope Estates, Kingston 6
970 - 1778 - 9

Early Stimulation Programme

92 Hanover Street, Kingston
922 - 5585

For further information, contact:

The Special Education Unit

37 Arnold Road

Kingston 4

Telephone: 967-2312

Email: specialedu@moey.gov.jm

or

your Regional Special Needs Coordinator

Region 1—Kingston & St. Andrew

612-6024

Region 2—St. Thomas, Portland & St. Mary

993-5603

Region 3—St. Ann & Trelawny

975-2703/ 2716

Region 4—St. James, Hanover & Westmoreland

953-6928-30

Region 5—Manchester & St. Elizabeth

962-1753

Region 6—St. Catherine & Clarendon

983-1567 or 754-4203



MINISTRY of EDUCATION
YOUTH & INFORMATION

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT



*Supporting the education of
children with special needs*