

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.

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT

The core Unit was established in the Ministry of Education in January 1989. It is headed by an Assistant Chief Education Officer & has a complement of seven Education Officers, an administrative assistant, a secretary and a graphic technician. The Unit also includes the positions of Regional Special Needs Coordinators (RSNCOs) and Student Support Teams (SSTs) which are assigned to each of the seven Regions. The Unit operates a Braille & Large Print Programme which provides support to students at the primary level who are blind and visually impaired, through the reproduction of all national examinations and primary curriculum support materials in alternative formats of braille & large print.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To secure learning opportunities for students with special educational needs & disabilities 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 educational needs & disabilities.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The Unit provides technical support, curriculum supervision and monitoring services for Government owned, Government-aided & Non-Government special education schools, units & programmes, organizations & community-based facilities island wide. The Unit also engages in assessment, programme planning & interventions & provides sensitization & training on special education matters.

The Unit facilitates the processes of placement, the provision of shadow support & the provision of examination accommodations for students with diagnosed special educational needs and disabilities.

The Unit is a resource base for expertise, advice and hands-on information across all levels of the education system and collaborates with all other units within the MoEY as well as with other Ministries, agencies and other stakeholders which offer services to persons with special needs.

WHO ARE SERVED

Students from 3 - 21 years with various special needs such as

- ◆ 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)
- ◆ Gifted and Talented
- ◆ Autism

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ In-service training for teachers in special and regular schools
- ◆ Supervision and training of resource teachers in regular schools
- ◆ Referrals for educational assessment
- ◆ Sensitization for teachers, parent groups, administrators, Principals, board members & Education Officers
- ◆ Promotion of special education interventions 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
- ◆ Facilitation of the provision of shadow support services
- ◆ Supervision of national examinations for students with special needs
- ◆ Training of examination support personnel
- ◆ Development of partnerships with educational institutions, non-government organizations, service agencies and the private sector

CATEGORIES OF SCHOOLS

Government Operated Schools

- ◆ 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 School for the Deaf
- ◆ Lister Mair Gilby High School for the Deaf
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Rosebank
- ◆ Belmont Park Primary
- ◆ Jack's River Primary
- ◆ Morant Bay Primary
- ◆ Port Morant Primary

REFERRAL AGENCIES

- ◆ **Mico Child Assessment Research in Education (C.A.R.E.) Centre** - 5 Manhattan Road, Kgn 5 - 876-929-7720 - 2
- ◆ **Jamaica Society for the Blind** - 111 1/2 Old Hope Road, Kgn 6 - 876-927-3760 / 876-927-6457- 9
- ◆ **Jamaica Association for the Deaf** - Hope Estates, Kgn 6 - 876-970-1778 - 9
- ◆ **Early Stimulation Programme** - 92 Hanover Street, Kgn - 876-922-5585
- ◆ **Sam Sharpe Teachers' College Diagnostic and Early Intervention Centre** - Granville, Montego Bay - 876-616-3371
- ◆ **Church Teachers' College Educational Assessment & Intervention Centre** - 40 Manchester Rd., Mandeville - 876-962-2662/0701 or 876-499-7468

For further information, contact:

The Special Education Unit
37 Arnold Road
Kingston 5

Telephone: 876-922-1400-9 or 876-612-5700-2
Exts. 2704/2706

Email: specialedu@moey.gov.jm

◆ Special Education Unit Webpage-

<https://moey.gov.jm/resources/?doc-division-unit=164&doc-category=0#>

OR

contact your Regional Special Needs Coordinator

◆ Region 1 - Kingston & St. Andrew

2-4 National Heroes Circle
876-922-1400-9

Email: nicolette.thompson@moey.gov.jm
specialneedsregion1@moey.gov.jm

◆ Region 2 - St. Thomas, Portland & St. Mary

Passley Gardens, Port Antonio, Portland
876-352-4038 / 876-922-1400 ext. 4200
simone.scottbrown@moey.gov.jm/876-352-4038

◆ Region 3 - St. Ann & Trelawny

1 Huntley Avenue, Brown's Town P.O. St. Ann
876-352-4023 / 876-917-8440
annika.henryjohnson@moey.gov.jm/876-352-4023

◆ Region 4 - St. James, Hanover & Westmoreland

Alice Eldemire Drive, Montego Bay, St. James
876-953-6928-30 ext. 4415

◆ Region 5 - Manchester & St. Elizabeth

17 South Race Course Road, Mandeville, Manchester
876-962-1753 / 876-962-7098
toween.cwilson@moey.gov.jm/876-357-5098

◆ Region 6 - St. Catherine

6 Poinciana Close, Marlie Acres, Old Harbour
876-276-7411
sancia.cheadley@moey.gov.jm/876-276-7411

◆ Region 7- Clarendon

42 Longbridge Ave
bathsheba.shaw@moey.gov.jm/876-894-0680



Ministry of
Education, Skills,
Youth & Information

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION UNIT



*Supporting the Education
of Children with
Special Needs*