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**Discrete SEN Curriculum Provision 2025-2026**

**Guidance for Potential Students with Complex Medical  
Conditions and/or Personal Care Needs**

**SWC Application and Enrolment Guidelines for a SEN Student**

## **Introduction**

South West College (SWC) is committed to fostering an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students. As part of this commitment, the Discrete SEN Curriculum Provision 2025-2026 is designed to provide structured vocational and academic pathways tailored to the needs of students. We plan to review curriculum going forward and may seek to pilot alternative approaches.

This guidance outlines key considerations for prospective Discrete SEN students and their families, clarifying the application and enrolment process at SWC. It highlights the support available, expectations regarding student independence, and the role of external agencies in ensuring appropriate care and assistance beyond the college's remit.

By engaging early and understanding the provisions in place, students can make informed decisions and access the necessary resources to successfully transition into further education.

This document serves as an essential reference for navigating SWC's Discrete SEN application process and maximising the opportunities available within the curriculum.

## **Discrete SEN Provision at SWC 2025-2026**

### **The Curriculum – Full Time**

Life and Living Skills

Omagh/Erne/Cookstown

#### **P0031 - OCR Diploma in Life and Living Skills (Entry 2)**

This course for people 16+ that require a course to recognise personal growth and engagement in learning. The course is designed for students with Special Educational Needs. This is a full-time course with 3 days in college, and one day work placement (work placement is not compulsory at Entry 2.)

#### **P0041- OCR Entry Level Diploma in Life and Living Skills (Entry 3)**

The OCR Entry 3 Diploma in Life and Living is a two-year programme that covers a variety of subjects to enrich students' knowledge of the communities around them, give them the skills to be independent adults and to continue to build upon their prior achievements. The course will include personal presentation and appearance, creative studies, managing money, travel, using local services, leisure activities and keeping healthy and safe. The key elements of English, maths and ICT will also be delivered.

3 days in college, half day essential skills (if necessary) and one day work placement  
- COMPULSORY

#### **P0183 - NOCN Level 1 Diploma in Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development**

The NOCN Level 1 Diploma in Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development is a Two-year programme designed to introduce work as it introduces generic employability skills designed to build confidence for the workplace. The qualifications also contain units to address learners' needs in Personal Development, Vocational Support and Literacy and Numeracy.

3 days in college, half day essential skills (if necessary) and one day work placement  
- COMPULSORY

**Discrete SEN Provision at SWC**  
**The Curriculum – Part Time**

**Omagh**

Pilot Social Education/Recreational 2025-2026

Bright Sparks Social Enterprise Programme

**Cookstown**

City & Guilds Entry Level Diploma in Skills for Working Life (Entry 2)

or

\*City & Guilds Entry Level Cert in Skills for Working Life (Entry 2)

**Erne**

City & Guilds Entry Level Diploma in Skills for Working Life (Entry 2)

or

\*City & Guilds Entry Level Cert in Skills for Working Life (Entry 2)

OCNI E3 Certificate in Vocational Skills

# Guidance for Potential Students with Complex Medical Conditions and/or Personal Care Needs

## Introduction

South West College (SWC) is committed to providing an inclusive learning environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed. We recognise that some students may have complex medical conditions and/or personal care needs that require additional support. While the College strives to make reasonable adjustments, there may be circumstances where we do not have the capacity to provide certain types of personal care or medical assistance. This document outlines key guidance and alternative support options for prospective students.

## 1. Further Education Colleges vs. Special School Environments

A **general further education college** like SWC differs significantly from a **special school environment** in its structure, resources, and support provisions:

- **Educational Focus** – Further education colleges provide vocational and academic courses aimed at preparing students for employment or higher education, whereas special schools focus on tailored educational approaches with extensive personal and medical support.
- **Staffing and Support** – Special schools typically have dedicated personal care assistants, specialist medical staff, and smaller class sizes. Further education colleges, while offering learning support, do not have the same level of personal care resources.
- **Independence and Self-Management** – Further education assumes a degree of student independence, with an expectation that personal care and medical needs will be managed externally.
- **Funding and Legal Obligations** – Colleges are subject to different funding structures and statutory responsibilities compared to schools, limiting their ability to provide intensive one-to-one support beyond reasonable adjustments.

## 2. Early Discussion and Needs Assessment

If you have complex medical or personal care needs, we strongly encourage you to contact our **Student Engagement and Support Manager** as early as possible. A discussion will help us:

- Understand your individual requirements.
- Assess the level of support the College can reasonably provide.
- Explore any necessary adjustments that could facilitate your participation in learning.

### 3. The College's Role and Limitations

SWC provides a range of support services, including:

- Learning support and reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.
- Assistive technology and classroom accommodations.
- Mental health and wellbeing services.

However, **the College does not have the resources to provide:**

- **Personal care assistance** (e.g., help with toileting, feeding, or mobility beyond basic reasonable adjustments).
- **Medical care or supervision** (e.g., administration of medication, specialist medical interventions, or emergency medical support beyond standard first aid provisions).
- **One-to-one carers or support workers** (students requiring this level of assistance would need to arrange external support).

### 4. External Support Options

If you require personal care or medical assistance beyond what SWC can provide, we recommend:

- **Health and Social Care Trust Services** – You may be eligible for support through your local trust, including access to **Direct Payments** to fund a personal assistant (PA) or carer.
- **Social Services Support** – If you have an assigned social worker, they can advise on available resources and funding.
- **Disability Support Organisations** – Charities and organisations that specialise in disability support may be able to provide additional guidance.

### 5. Next Steps

If you are considering studying at SWC and have complex medical or personal care needs:

1. **Applicants must apply online** and SWC staff will be in contact regarding your application.
2. **Work with relevant agencies** (health, social care, disability services) to explore external support options.
3. **Attend a transition planning meeting**, if necessary, to determine the most appropriate learning pathway.

### Contact Information

For further guidance, please contact: **Student Engagement and Support Manager**

Email: [sharon.pritchard@swc.ac.uk]

## SWC Application and Enrolment Guidelines for a SEN Student

At SWC, we are committed to ensuring that students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) receive the necessary support throughout the application and enrolment process. Our structured recruitment process is designed to assess individual needs and facilitate a smooth transition into college life.

### January – Open Day Promotion

- Information about the Open Day is disseminated through various channels to engage prospective students and their families.

### February – Application & Initial Assessment

- **Open Day (Curriculum & Student Services):** Students and their families attend an event to explore course offerings, meet staff, and understand available SEN support.
- **Online Application Submission:** Applicants submit their applications online, including required documentation such as Statements of Educational Needs and academic certificates.
- **Needs Assessment Form (Section 1):** Students complete the initial section of the SWC Needs Assessment Form to provide details about their specific requirements.

### Application Review Process

- **Comprehensive Review:** The Curriculum Team and Student Services assess all applications and needs assessments.
- **Conditional Offers:** Applications that meet the criteria and do not require further review receive a **Conditional Offer** via EBS.
- **Further Review:** Applications involving complex medical conditions or personal care needs are evaluated by a designated panel.
- **Panel Decision:** If reasonable adjustments can be made, a **Conditional Offer** is issued via EBS. If SWC is unable to provide the required level of personal care or medical assistance, the parent/guardian is informed that the application has not been successful.
- **Right to Appeal:** Panel Decision. Request for Feedback. Right to Appeal see SWC Admissions policy

### May – Taster Day Invitation



- Students with a conditional offer are invited to participate in a taster day, providing an opportunity to experience the course and college environment firsthand.

### **August – Final Assessment & Enrolment**

- **Interview:** Students with conditional offers attend an interview with Curriculum and Student Services.
- **Needs Assessment Update:** The Needs Assessment is reviewed and updated to reflect any changes since February.
- **Panel Review (if required):** If concerns arise during the interview or assessment update, the application may undergo further evaluation.
- **Final Decision:** If SWC is unable to accommodate specific personal care or medical needs, the parent/guardian is informed that the application has not been successful.
- **Right to Appeal:** Panel Decision. Request for Feedback. Right to Appeal see SWC Admissions policy
- **Enrolment:** Successful applicants complete the enrolment process and commence their studies.

This structured approach ensures that SEN students receive the appropriate support and that their individual needs are thoroughly assessed before they begin their course. If you require further details or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

\*SWC remains committed to inclusivity and will work collaboratively to support all students within the scope of our capacity. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to working with you to find a suitable and supportive educational pathway.