



AN ROINN | DEPARTMENT OF
OIDEACHAIS | EDUCATION
AGUS EOLAÍOCHTA | AND SCIENCE

PRIMARY BRANCH

CIRCULAR LETTER TO BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT AND PRINCIPALS OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS

The Minister for Education and Science wishes to refer to his announcement of March last with regard to major improvements in primary school class sizes.

The Minister has been concerned for some time about the number of large classes in primary schools and has been examining ways to target extra teaching resources to those schools with the greatest need in this area. The new staffing schedule, which issued in April, will significantly improve the situation in these schools, since it is structured to ensure that all primary schools will operate to a maximum class size of 30 pupils.

Teacher allocations as a result of the improved schedule are being granted specifically to achieve average class sizes that meet the 30-pupil objective and school authorities should ensure that they are used exclusively in mainstream class teaching for this purpose. The Minister has requested the Department's Inspectorate to monitor the assignment of these posts in this regard.

John Dennehy
Secretary General
June 1999