



Information Note TC/IN 0011/2024

**To: The Managerial Authorities of Recognised Primary, Secondary,
Community and Comprehensive Schools and
The Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards**

Amendment to the Maternity Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Due to legislative changes which came into effect on 16th September 2024, this Information Note advises employers of an amendment to Circular 0017/2013 titled *‘Maternity Protection entitlements for Special Needs Assistants’*.

2. Maternity Leave Entitlement

- 2.1 Paragraph 1.1 of Circular 0017/2013 is amended as follows:

‘All pregnant special needs assistants, who give birth to a live child, or who reach their 23rd week of pregnancy, are entitled to 26 weeks maternity leave and 16 weeks additional unpaid maternity leave. ‘In the event of a stillbirth or miscarriage, any time after the 23rd week of pregnancy, or where the child has a birth weight of at least 400 grammes, full Maternity Leave entitlements apply.’

3. Circulation of Information Note

- 3.1 Please ensure this Information Note is circulated to all members of the Board of Management/Education and Training Boards and its contents are brought to the attention of all SNAs in your employment, including those on leave of absence.
- 3.2 This Information Note can be accessed on the Department's website at www.gov.ie.

James Walsh
Principal Officer
Teacher/SNA Terms & Conditions Section

08 October 2024