

**Comments from Mr S. D. Sheahan CC**

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy, 2017-2020.

The Strategy lacks a strong and clear definition of inclusion. This should be considered for future revisions of the Strategy. A good place to start might be by revisiting UNESCO's 1994 Salamanca Statement on Principles, Policy and Practice in Special Needs Education and Framework for Action and reflecting on how things have progressed. For example, the Council could offer a contemporary view on the balance between inclusion and integration and how the application of the principles of inclusion in SEN provision can positively influence mainstream education. By the same token, it would be helpful to consider the benefits to wider society and the promotion of children's human rights, from taking a principled stance on inclusion in Special Needs Education.

Sean Sheahan

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