

Welcome to the 2019/2020 School Year

On behalf of all at ACCS, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our school communities every success and good health for the school year ahead. The new school year with its changes represents a time for a new start and a fresh approach as school communities come back together renewed after summer holidays and time spent with families and friends. As with every new year, we think about new resolutions and goals for the coming year, reflecting on what we will do differently and are reminded of the words of Jim Rohn:

“Goals.

There’s no telling what you can do when you get inspired by them.

There’s no telling what you can do when you believe in them.

And there’s no telling what will happen when you act upon them.”

The ACCS has set out its goals in its Strategic Plan (2017-2020) and these guide our work for the forthcoming year. This is the final year of the strategic plan which will be up for review in the 2nd quarter of 2020.

In the plan the first strategy places a clear focus on supporting schools in embedding the significant change and new developments evident in the education system currently. We do so *“to ensure that students remain engaged in an innovative and progressive educational environment where they can flourish.”* (ACCS Strategic Plan)

The ACCS goals, in this regard, include supporting schools in establishing effective middle leadership systems where the emphasis is fixed firmly on the core business of teaching and learning. Twenty-five schools are working on developing effective middle leadership systems and a further twenty-five schools are booked to commence work in this area as the second cohort joins the project in November.

Throughout the year, the ACCS Executive ICT Sub-committee will continue its work in developing and sharing materials with schools to assist in planning

for, and in embedding the Digital Learning Framework. As with best practice in any planning in school it is important to adopt a robust approach and schools are advised to use the six-stage process of SSE to inform the work. Establishing where a school is and setting out where it wants to be within a certain timeframe and within the framework of Looking at Our School, LAOS, is central to success.

In 2019/2020 ACCS will continue to work closely with the NCCA on its student voice project. There is no doubt that the benefits of capturing and harnessing student voice are well documented in both Irish and international literature. These include enhancing school development and improvement, greater democracy for students, improved teacher-student and student-student relationships as well as enhancing young people’s skills and empowering their self-esteem. One of the most important benefits is that we, as adults, can gain access to the specialist knowledge that the learners have about their schools and, in this way, can work with the young people to develop effective learning cultures in which they are active participants who are meaningfully engaged.

Gerry Czerniawski and Warren Kidd (2011) in their book, ‘The Student Voice Handbook: Bridging the Academic/Practitioner Divide’ describe how teachers/schools can use the student voice to help hear the roar that Mann (2006) described – paraphrasing George Eliot, Middlemarch, (1874):

“getting close to the roar that lies on the other side of the silence of the classroom for it is only in that roar that we can begin to develop an understanding of the lived experience of individuals within classroom, contexts.”

In the book they also remind us that we need to compensate for the reticent by giving them more time and listening harder and that when embedding processes in our schools to support ‘authentic student/learner voice’ we recognise that there are many voices in our schools and in our classrooms.



Mr. John Irwin, General Secretary, ACCS

Details of the complete ACCS programme of Continuous Professional Development, (CPD) for 2019/20 school year are available in this newsletter and the breadth of events represents the extensive support offered by ACCS to its member schools and Boards.

The remaining goals in the ACCS Strategic Plan (2017-2020) link closely to our work with individual patrons and the Department of Education and Skills.

Strategy 2 highlights the great strength of Community and Comprehensive schools and the diversity of patronage bodies engaged in schools reflecting the communities they serve. As in previous years, ACCS will continue its work in equipping Boards to meet their Governance responsibilities through a range of high quality CPD in a variety of different areas including Child Protection, Data Protection and in conjunction with the FSSU, in financial governance matters. We will also continue to work with individual Boards of Management offering BOM training at a local and individual level.

Strategy 3 will see ACCS continue to engage with the DES and Patron Bodies promoting the Community school model as an ideal and vibrant option for future new schools’ development. Indeed, we look forward to the opening of the new Community school in Ennistymon, Co Clare.

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This newsletter is a private and confidential document for circulation only to Boards of Management and Principals. **Please circulate to Board Members.**

The quote from Jim Rohn reminds us of the fitting keynote speech delivered by Sr. Marie Céline Clegg at the Seminar for Patrons of Community and Comprehensive Schools in the Mullingar Park Hotel on 26th February 2019. This seminar formally established the new Association of Joint Patrons of Community and Comprehensive Schools (AJPCCS, shortened to AJP). The new association replaces the National Trustee Forum (NTF) which was set up in 2003 and which proved to be an effective organisation for over a decade creating an opportunity for those involved in joint patronage to have a forum whereby joint patrons could engage purposefully with each other and with other relevant Bodies in relation to issues. The NTF also provided patrons the opportunity to have their interests robustly represented at meetings with the Department of Education and Skills.

The new AJP has come about as a result of a highly collaborative effort involving representatives of patrons and ATCS. The Constitution for the new Association has been formulated and accepted by the leadership of all the relevant Bodies and the first AGM is scheduled for later this year.

On wishing the new Executive of the AJP every success in its leadership role, Sr. Maire Céline noted the following:

“Awareness, advocacy and action are now required and must be exercised in a robust, collective and collegial manner if the C&C sector is to lay foundations of hope for future generations while actively acknowledging the legitimacy of a plurality of schools within the system.”

Also highlighting the relevance of the words of Dr. Diarmuid Martin:

“A pluralist education system in a pluralist Ireland must be one where battles of ideology are overcome and not reinforced. There is need to form new bonds of partnership to ensure a common vision of education, rather than an antagonistic one, in our pluralist nation.”

Schools continue to be busy places and again we commence the year with the hope that schools will be given plenty of opportunities and time to continue to embed the changes which range across Curriculum, Child Protection, SEN, GDPR, Admissions and Finance. In presenting the year's CPD to schools at this time of the year, we hope that school boards and school leaders will endeavour to schedule as many CPD events as possible into your own school calendar throughout this year.

We look forward to meeting you at many of the ACCS scheduled CPD events and remain committed to providing high quality in-service to Boards of Management and school leaders in our schools. Our CPD programme is constantly under review and is informed by input from relevant organisations such as the State Claims Agency, The School Procurement Unit and the FSSU and from our member schools. ACCS also wishes to acknowledge the support and inputs into our CPD programme from a myriad of other educational organisations and Department personnel. The programme commences in late August with a 2-day Induction for New Principals and Deputy Principals and we follow this with Area Information Meetings at the beginning of the school year. All schools are encouraged to book early for the CPD events as in certain instances numbers are strictly capped. The schedule includes events which are offered either on a national basis or where possible on a regional basis.

We take this opportunity to congratulate and acknowledge the service of Principals and Deputy Principals who are retiring this year. It was our great pleasure to meet many of the retirees at the regional meetings across the country in June. Their contribution to their schools and wider communities is greatly appreciated and we wish them every happiness in the next chapter of their lives. To the newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals, we say welcome and we wish you every success in your new leadership role.

This year the newsletter will retain regular features such as 'Recently Published Circulars' and 'News and Events from Community and Comprehensive Schools'. We encourage you also to visit our website, www.accs.ie regularly where updates and Information Bulletins regarding the implications of relevant circulars are hosted.

We hope that schools will continue to forward news and photographs of events in their schools which we can showcase in the newsletters and on our website. Sharing our stories and celebrating our successes is an important part of community building and one which we do extremely well in our Community and Comprehensive schools.

As you embark on another school year please remember that ACCS is always available to support you. Don't hesitate to pick up the phone to call us or send an email if you have any query or need some advice. We are delighted to welcome Catherine O'Sullivan to the team this year. Catherine will be assisting and supporting schools which facilitate further education and PLC courses in both ACCS and JMB sectors and will be joining the ACCS team in September 2019.

Catherine O'Sullivan, Further Education and Training Co-Ordinator

Catherine O'Sullivan has been appointed as the ACCS/JMB Further Education and Training Co-ordinator to lead and manage a new Further Education and Training Support Unit which has been established for the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS) and the Joint Managerial Body (JMB) Schools. This Further Education and Training Support Unit will be responsible for providing supports for a range of activities to schools in relation to the provision of Further Education and Training.

Catherine completed her Degree in Business Studies at the University of Limerick and holds Post Graduate Diplomas in Education, Information & Communication Technology and Adult Education. She has spent over 20 years as

Assistant Principal, Director of Adult Education, PLC/BTEI Co-ordinator at Central College Limerick and has lectured on the Post Graduate Diploma in Education Business at the University of Limerick since 2006. Catherine has been supporting ACCS/JMB schools in a part-time capacity with all matters relating to Further Education since 2012.

In her new role, Catherine will support schools with PLSS, FARR, QA re-engagement and programme validation. She will establish arrangements with JFERG schools both nationally and regionally to work effectively with SOLAS and Education & Training Board (ETB) structures. She will co-ordinate relevant CPD and will manage access for ACCS/JMB schools to the New EA



Catherine O'Sullivan, Further Education and Training Co-Ordinator

National Panel as well as representing schools on Further Education national working groups, steering groups and advisory groups.

Catherine O'Sullivan can be contacted by email at: cosullivan@accs.ie.

Retirements and New Appointments

Retired/Departing Principals and Deputy Principals

ACCS offers its thanks and best wishes to those retiring or moving to pastures new.

Ballinamore C.S.

Principal: Pdraig Leyden

Blakestown C.S.

Principal: Eileen O'Connor

Bishopstown C.S.

Principal: John Farrell

Boyne C.S.

Deputy Principal: Raymond Tully

Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.

Deputy Principal: Paul Byrne (seconded)

Coláiste Cholmcille

Principal: Jimmy Keogh

Hartstown C.S.

Principal: John Bean

Holy Child C.S.

Deputy Principal: Stacey Kenny (moved sector)

Kildare Town C.S.

Principal: Patrick Flynn

Killinarden C.S.

Deputy Principal: Denise Lennon-Hennessy (moved sector)

Moate C.S.

Deputy Principal: Frances Kelly

Mount Temple Comprehensive

Principal: Liam Wegimont (seconded)

Newpark Comprehensive

Principal: Derek Lowry

Old Bawn C.S.

Principal: Paul Crone (moved sector)

Portumna C.S.

Principal: Derry Long

St. Caimin's C.S.

Principal: Claire Knight

St. Patrick's Comprehensive

Principal: Morgan Heaphy (moved sector)

St. Tiernan's C.S.

Deputy Principal: Gerry McCooey

Tallaght C.S.

Principal: Teresa Hennessy
Deputy Principal: Mick Glynn

The Royal and Prior Comprehensive

Deputy Principal: Margaret Nairn

New Principals and Deputy Principals

Congratulations to all recently appointed Principals and Deputy Principals.

Ballinamore C.S.

Principal: Diarmuid Caffrey
Deputy Principal: Martin Cunnane

Ballinteer C.S.

Deputy Principal: Amy Doherty

Ballymakenny College C.S.

Acting Deputy Principal: Mike Lyons

Blakestown C.S.

Principal: Frank Milling

Bishopstown C.S.

Principal: Edwina Gottstein
Deputy Principal: Lorna Finnegan

Boyne C.S.

Deputy Principal: Donncha Ó Siadhail

Carrick-on-Shannon C.S.

Acting Deputy Principal: Catriona Sexton

Coláiste Cholmcille

Principal: Cora Fagan
Deputy Principal: Darren McGuinness

Gallen C.S.

Principal: Garrett Buckley
Deputy Principal: Stacey Guinan

Hartstown C.S.

Principal: Lucia Ryan

Holy Child C.S.

Deputy Principal: Clodagh Downes

Kildare Town C.S.

Principal: John Hayes
Deputy Principal: Fiona Behan
Deputy Principal: Jenny O'Halloran

Killinarden C.S.

Deputy Principal: Gillian White

Moate C.S.

Deputy Principal: Olive Costello

Mount Temple Comprehensive

Acting Principal: Helen Gormley
Acting Deputy Principal: Gareth Borland

Newpark Comprehensive

Principal: Eoin Norton

Old Bawn C.S.

Principal: Ursula McCabe
Deputy Principal: Sarah Gibbons

Pobalscoil na Rosann

Deputy Principal: Dáire Gillen

Pobalscoil Rosmini

Deputy Principal: Karen O'Donovan

Portumna C.S.

Principal: Shane McClearn

St. Caimin's C.S.

Principal: Alan Cunningham
Deputy Principal: Maria Sheehan

St. Patrick's Comprehensive

Principal: Mary Costello

St. Tiernan's C.S.

Deputy Principal: Kevin Martin

Tallaght C.S.

Principal: Aidan Lynch
Deputy Principal: Ian Boran

The Royal and Prior Comprehensive

Deputy Principal: Tara Cowan

Recent Relevant DES Circular Letters

CL 41/19	Public Service Stability Agreement 2013 – 2020 - Revision of Teacher Salaries with effect from 1 September 2019.
CL 40/19	Fair Processing Notice to explain how the personal data of students in post-primary schools on the Post-Primary Online Database (P-POD) will be recorded, processed and shared.
CL 37/19	Payment of the Special Educational Needs allowance to current holders who commence Job-sharing. Change to conditions – Amendment to Circular 0135/2006.
CL 36/19	Guidelines on access to PLC for certain participants in the asylum process for the 2019/20 academic year.
CL 35/19	Changes to the Career Break Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools - Employment while on Career Break.
CL 33/19	Revision of Capitation Grant Rates for Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme.

ACCS Convention 2020

The 38th ACCS Convention will take place on the 4th, 5th & 6th March 2020 in the Great Southern Killarney, East Avenue Road, Town Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry. The Convention will commence on Wednesday afternoon and conclude on Friday afternoon.

Dates to remember

4th December, 2019

Nominations for Presidency and motions for Convention to be submitted.

4th January, 2020

Draft agenda of business and nominations for Presidency and motions to be issued to Member Boards and Executive Members. Member Boards will be invited to submit amendments to the motions.

4th February, 2020

Latest date for receipt of amendments to the motions.

19th February, 2020

A final agenda will be issued to Member Boards.



Excellence in School Practice

Dignity at Work Training

Objectives

The Dignity at Work Policy has been developed in consultation with the Unions and input from the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC).

Content includes:

- What is workplace bullying, harassment and sexual harassment
- Policy & Procedures
- The informal and formal procedure
- Responsibilities of both management and employee
- The role of key personnel in the policy
- Importance of communicating the Policy to all staff and others (contractors, caterers etc.)

Who should attend?

Contact and Designated Persons.

DATES/VENUES:

17/09/19 Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

24/09/19 Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick.

01/10/19 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Governance in Schools – Child Protection

Objectives

Since the commencement of the Children First Act and of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, the statutory obligations and the obligations arising from the CPP 2017 are significantly greater. This is most clearly seen in the oversight obligations on Boards of Management.

Content includes:

- The context of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections: The Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017
- Aims of Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (CPSIs)
- The Inspection Framework
- Features and procedures of Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (CPSIs)
- The report format
- Supports available for schools

Who should attend?

Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Board of Management Members.

DATES/VENUES:

17/09/19 Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

24/09/19 The Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

01/10/19 The Glasshouse Hotel, Swan Point, Sligo.

TIME: 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Essential Education Law Day

Objectives

In partnership with Mason Hayes and Curran (MHC) and its team of leading lawyers in the education sector, the ACCS is hosting a one-day seminar on legal matters that impact daily on schools.

Content includes:

- Admissions Policy
- Custody and Guardianship Disputes
- Pupil Disciplinary Procedures
- Section 29 Appeals
- Anti-Bullying Procedures
- Cyber-Bullying
- Teachers: Disciplinary and Competency Procedures

Who should attend?

Principals, Deputy Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Board of Management Members.

DATE: 19/09/19

VENUE: Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

TIME: 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Special Education Needs – New Allocation Model

Objectives

Circular Letter 14/2017 introduced a revised special education teaching allocation model to mainstream post-primary schools from the 2017/18 school year onwards. This revised allocation model provides for the generation of a school profile to determine the special education teaching allocation. The circular is accompanied by Guidance for Schools in the identification of student needs and the organisation, deployment and use of special education teachers to address these needs. This in-service will address the requirements placed on schools by the new special education model.

Content includes:

- The introduction of the revised allocation model
- NCSE policy advice
- School education profile
- Enrolment of students with special educational needs
- Identification of students for support
- Roles of school personnel
- Deployment of teaching resources
- Educational planning

Who should attend?

Principals, Deputy Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management, Board of Management Members and SEN Co-Ordinators.

DATE: 09/10/19

VENUE: Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

TIME: 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Enhancing Learning and Teaching in the Classroom: Promoting Student Voice

Objectives

This is the third workshop on student voice which is being facilitated by the NCCA and ACCS. The Student voice concept encompasses the right for learners to express their opinions, access people who influence decisions and actively participate in educational decision making processes. Central in the examples in this article is the notion that working in partnership with students will enable students to become more self directed learners and active citizens.

Content includes:

- Supporting student voice in the classroom
- Developing practice to enhance student voice

Who should attend?

This day is aimed at school leaders and teacher leaders who are interested in promoting student voice in the school and in the classroom.

DATE: 23/10/19

VENUE: Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

TIME: 9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

The Middle Leadership Team

ACCS has developed a new in-service to assist Boards of Management in supporting colleagues in middle leadership positions in school in the context of: DES Circular 0003/2018; School Self Evaluation (SSE); Looking at Our School 2016 – a quality framework for post primary schools.

Programme Objectives

- To develop a shared understanding of distributed leadership by API, APII and the SLT/SMT in school in the current context
- To build leadership capacity in school
- To explore the LAOS framework and effective change management strategies
- To establish a robust culture which supports effective pedagogy in the classroom
- To consider the central importance of relationships and communication when working with stakeholders

Who should attend?

Each cohort can accommodate three delegates from 25 schools (one API, one APII and one member of the senior leadership team) on a first come, first served basis. Delegates are required to commit to two residentials, one in Autumn and one in Spring.

Excellence in School Practice

The Middle Leadership Team cont'd

DATES/VENUES:

Cohort 1. 06/11/19 & 07/11/19
Cohort 2. 07/11/19 & 08/11/19
Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath.

TIMES:

Cohort 1. 10.00 a.m. – 6.00p.m. &
9.30 a.m. – 1.00p.m.
Cohort 2. 2.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. &
9.30 a.m. – 3.30p.m.

DATES/VENUES:

Cohort 2. 25/03/20 & 26/03/20
Cohort 3. 26/03/20 & 27/03/20
The Midlands Park Hotel,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

TIMES:

Cohort 2. 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. &
9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Cohort 3. 2.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. &
9.30 a.m. – 3.30p.m.

Booking Arrangements

Notice of arrangements and booking instructions will be sent to schools prior to each course by email.

Clerical Officer/School Secretary In-Service

Objectives

The work of the Clerical Officer/School Secretary is central to the effective working of the school. They engage with Esinet/OLCS/P.Pod which continue to evolve. The General Data Protection Regulations (“GDPR”) emanating from the EU legislative bodies will also have implications for schools.

ACCS and the FSSU will provide an in-service that is practically based and will give both new and experienced Clerical Officers an opportunity to discuss their concerns and to share best practice.

Who should attend?

Clerical Officers/School Secretaries.

DATES/VENUES:

13/11/19 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Limerick.

14/11/19 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Sligo.

03/12/19 Ashling Hotel, Parkgate
Street, Dublin 8.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. followed
by lunch

Teacher Allocations and Redeployment

Objectives

This in-service is being held to coincide with allocations being distributed to schools by the Department of Education and Skills. The intention is that schools will be alerted to any changes emanating from the Budget and will be updated on any Department of Education and Skills changes to allocations. We will discuss how schools can use their allocation to best effect and how curricular concessions should be sought. Redeployment and the procedure and sequence for filling available teacher posts/hours will also be discussed.

Content includes:

- Current issues affecting allocation
- Initial allocation/final allocation
- Curriculum check list/audit
- Curricular concessions best practice
- Appeals
- Redeployment

Who should attend?

Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of Boards of Management.

DATE: 04/02/20

VENUE: The Killshin Hotel,
Dublin Road, Co. Laois.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

ACCS Area Information Meetings



A series of Area Information Meetings are scheduled for late August and early September. These meetings will provide the opportunity for ACCS to discuss the coming year and any changes in policies and procedures with Board of Management Members, Principals and Deputy Principals.

Booking Delegates on ACCS Online School Portal for CPD as per schedule

To access the school portal log on to <https://www.accscloud.net>. You will require your Username (last 4 digits of the main school phone number), password and a maths captcha to login.

If you require assistance with this process or your password please call ACCS Head Office staff on 01 460 1150.

Please note that documentation for booking delegates for the ACCS In-School Management Conference and the ACCS Annual Convention will be forwarded by email in advance of the event.

Update of contact information for ACCS Portal for the 2019/2020 School Year



Schools will receive an email in August from info@accscloud.net which will contain a link to the portal and login information to access the ACCS portal. On receipt of this email we would request that schools update their contact information for the 2019/2020 School Year as soon as possible.

ACCS Continuous Professional Development Programme 2019/2020

Date & Location	Programme Title	Participants
19/08/19 - 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. 20/08/19 - 9.30 a.m. – 1.15 p.m. Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath.	Induction of New Principals & Deputy Principals in Community & Comprehensive Schools.	All recently appointed Principals & Deputy Principals for an introduction to the sector.
27/08/19 Radisson Blu, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. 29/08/19 Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. (Dublin Meeting) 02/09/19 The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. (Leinster Meeting) 04/09/19 Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick. 05/09/19 Clayton Hotel, Ballybrit, Galway.	ACCS Area Information Meetings. Ulster: 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. Dublin: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Leinster: 3.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. Munster: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Connacht: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Principal, Deputy Principals, Secretaries Board of Management plus 2 Members of the Board of Management.
17/09/19 Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. 24/09/19 Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick. 01/10/19 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo.	Dignity at Work Training. 10.00 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.	Contact and Designated Persons.
17/09/19 Clayton Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. 24/09/19 The Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick. 01/10/19 The Glasshouse Hotel, Swan Point, Sligo.	Governance in Schools Child Protection. 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.	Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Board of Management Members.
19/09/19 Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.	Essential Education Law Day. Presented by Mason Hayes & Curran 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Principals, Deputy Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Board of Management Members.
09/10/19 Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow.	Special Education Needs New Allocation Model. 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Principals, Deputy Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management, Board of Management Members and SEN Co-Ordinators.
23/10/19 Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.	Enhancing Learning and Teaching in the Classroom: Promoting Student Voice. 9.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.	This day is aimed at school leaders and teacher leaders who are interested in promoting student voice in the school and in the classroom.
06/11/19 & 07/11/19 Cohort 1 (C1) 07/11/19 & 08/11/19 Cohort 2 (C2) Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.	The Middle Leadership Team. C1: 10.00 a.m. – 6.00p.m. & 9.30 a.m. – 1.00p.m. C2: 2.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. & 9.30 a.m. – 3.30p.m.	API, APII and one member of the senior leadership team in schools.
13/11/19 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Limerick. 14/11/19 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo. 03/12/19 Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.	Clerical Officer/School Secretary In-Service. 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. followed by lunch	Clerical Officers/School Secretaries.
28/11/19 & 29/11/19 Farnham Estate Spa & Golf Resort, Farnham Estate, Cavan, Co. Cavan.	In-School Management Conference. Buffet Lunch from 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. (Thursday) 9.15 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. (Friday)	Principals & Deputy Principals of Community & Comprehensive Schools (Documentation to follow).
04/02/20 The Killeshin Hotel, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	Teacher Allocations and Redeployment. 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.	Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of Boards of Management.
04/03/20 - 06/03/20 Great Southern Killarney, East Avenue Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry.	ACCS 2020 Convention. Wednesday 3.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. Thursday 9.15 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. Friday 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 noon	School Principal plus 2 Members of the Board of Management.
25/03/20 & 26/03/20 Cohort 2 (C2) 26/03/20 & 27/03/20 Cohort 3 (C3) The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	The Middle Leadership Team. C2: 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. & 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. C3: 2.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. & 9.30 a.m. – 3.30p.m.	API, APII and one member of the senior leadership team in schools.
Spring 2020	Data Protection.	Principals, Chairpersons of Boards of Management, Board of Management Members and Clerical Officers/personnel with responsibility for data.
06/05/20 The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.	Education Conference. 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Principals, Deputy Principals, School Personnel and Board of Management Members.

ACCS continues to offer Boards of Management the opportunity to engage in individual Board of Management training. However, the possibility of clustering this in-service will be considered at area information meetings.

NCCA Consultations - Autumn 2019

Senior Cycle Review

In 2016 the NCCA started a review of senior cycle education, when it completed research on senior cycle/upper secondary education across nine jurisdictions internationally. Following this, teachers, students and parents across 41 schools worked with the NCCA during the school year 2018/2019 to identify key strengths in senior cycle and areas where senior cycle could develop further.

The Interim Report on the Senior Cycle Review brings together the discussions held during the review in schools, at the national seminars and the national and international research on senior cycle. The Senior Cycle Review Consultation document published in July 2019 outlines the emerging areas for further consideration

in senior cycle. The senior cycle review is now entering phase three, public consultation.

Having read the reports which can be accessed at www.ncca.ie, the NCCA would like you to consider the areas for further development and have your say. There are several ways to participate in the consultation. See advert opposite.

After this phase is complete, priority areas, longer-term goals and a proposed timeline and advice on the pace and scale for developments in senior cycle will be generated in the form of an advisory report, which will issue to the Minister for Education and Skills for consideration. The NCCA wishes to thank all of those who have contributed to the review to date.

AN TSBRAITH SHINSEARACH
SENIOR CYCLE

Senior Cycle Review

Public consultation
Open until November 1st

Online Survey

Written Submission

Focus Groups

www.ncca.ie/seniorcycle
#seniorcyclereview

NCCA
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

Review of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in primary and post-primary schools - time to have your say!

In April 2018, the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D., asked the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment to undertake 'a major review' of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in schools. The review was conducted between June 2018 and March 2019 and now the NCCA is asking you to read the findings of the review and give your feedback.

Key findings

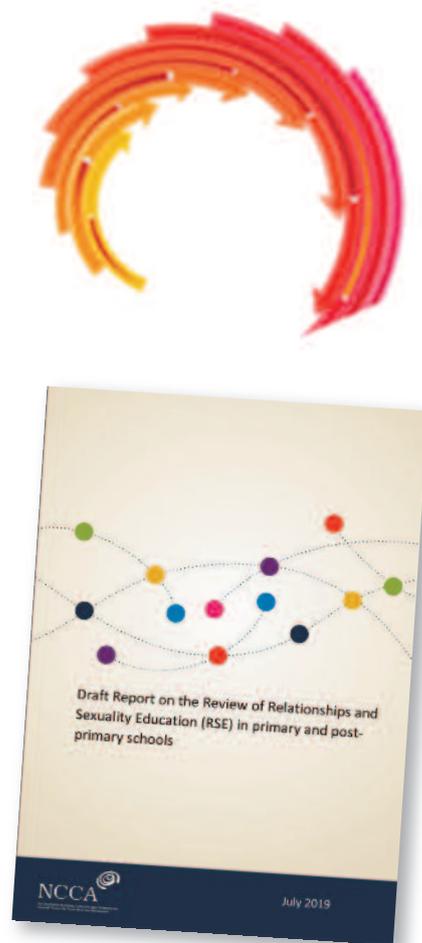
Overall the review found that there is a high level of agreement that Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is an important part of children's and young people's education today. Equally, there is agreement that schools, in partnership with parents, have a critical role to play in improving provision. The review has highlighted considerable variation in the provision of RSE across schools in terms of what is being taught, how it is taught, who teaches it and the time allocated. Many students described their experience as 'too little, too late and too biological.'

Teachers are aware of the importance of teacher professional development in improving the quality of RSE. They would like to see enhanced training available at both pre-service and in-service levels. In addition, post-primary teachers suggested there should be a qualification to teach SPHE. A further priority for teachers is an up-to-date curriculum which would facilitate learning needed to

navigate growing up in the world today. Teachers would like greater clarity on how to approach topics at different stages of children's learning in RSE. However, some pointed out that such guidance should ensure flexibility for schools to respond to their specific student needs. Teachers also felt that more time and smaller classes would facilitate meaningful learning across the range of topics students need to engage within SPHE/RSE. For more on teacher perspectives please read pages 44-54 of the draft Report.

The NCCA's *Draft Report on the Review of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in Primary and Post-Primary Schools* can be accessed at www.ncca.ie. A consultation on the draft Report will run until October 25th 2019. The NCCA needs your feedback on the findings of the review and on the draft recommendations outlined in the draft report. Details of how to make a submission can be accessed at: ncca.ie/en/updates-and-events/consultations/review-of-relationships-and-sexuality-education-rse

Arising from this consultation, a final report containing the advice for future directions will be finalised and issued to the Minister for Education and Skills.



News and Events in our Schools

Coolmine Community School

School Celebration of Culture



On the 16th of May 2019, Coolmine Community School invited the local community in Dublin 15 to join them in a 'Celebration of Culture' event in the Blanchardstown Centre. This event was organised in partnership with Blakestown Community School and Riversdale Community College. The day aimed to recognise and celebrate cultural diversity in the Dublin 15 area. Local politicians and embassy representatives were in attendance on the day. Six students from our school hosted an exhibition and presentation based on Nigeria, Poland, India, Romania, Ireland and Philippines. Each presentation showcased their traditions and provided a wealth of information to the participating audience. Our students hope that this event will serve to celebrate their identity and reduce intolerance in society by providing a platform to promote an understanding of each other.

Success in the Young Reporters of the Environment (YRE) Competition



Coolmine Community School had great success in the Young Reporters of the Environment Competition with one of our TY students, Angela Tang, achieving the best photo in the junior category for 'plastic in bloom'. See her winning entry below. Angela's photo has now been put forward to the YRE International Competition.

The YRE International Competition is for winners of the YRE National Competition in countries running the YRE programme. Every year, the most inspiring and creative entries from the National Competitions are assessed by an International Jury and have the chance of being recognised on a global scale.

St. Colmcille's Community School

A special Celebration for Peace at the Glenree Centre, Co. Wicklow



***'I will house peace' she says,
'a prince will come from Wales to do me honour
and I shall blend the echoes of Welsh soldiers with sounds of
children's laughter and the distinctive accents of the North'.***

Extract from poem by Una O'Higgins O'Malley,
founding member of Glenree.

A celebration of peace took place on Monday 20th May 2019, in the Glenree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation (Glenree) to mark the return visit of HRH The Prince of Wales accompanied by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina welcomed the couple.

The visit was also attended by leaders across civil society. A poem written by the late founding member of Glenree, Una O'Higgins O'Malley and written to honour The Prince's 2002 visit was read to the audience by young people from three schools working with Glenree. After the recital, a specially commissioned engraving of the poem in Wicklow granite was jointly unveiled by His Royal Highness Prince Charles and President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins. The event at Glenree, the first in a series of events on a visit to Ireland by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, showcased a series of key programmes run by Glenree. The highlighted programmes spanned the areas of Women in Leadership, Legacy and Young Peacebuilders. The event was attended by pupils and teachers from three schools working with Glenree on improving the understanding of young people about

British-Irish relations. Students and their teachers from St. Colmcille's Community School (South County Dublin), St. Louis Secondary School for Girls (Dundalk), and New-Bridge Integrated College (Banbridge, NI) shared their reflections and the future relations across these islands. As part of the event, students from the three schools recited the poem 'The Old Barracks at Glenree' (full text below) to the assembled guests.

The Old Barracks at Glenree

*The old Lady clutches her shawl of clouds around her bony shoulders
And gazes down the valley
Hugging a dream that no one can measure;
One day she will be filled again, she knows,
Though clamorous rooks make nurseries in her hair
and the prying sky gapes in through rotting rafters.
'I will house peace' she says, 'a prince will come from Wales to do
me honour and I shall blend
the echoes of Welsh soldiers with sounds of children's laughter
and the distinctive accents of the North'.
'Some will come here to pray' she says 'some to build and I shall
reach them all because my bridge will then be sturdy and I shall
hold them in my house in harmony'
And so, she dreams in solitude and silence,
Confident of her appointed destiny.*

Una O'Higgins O'Malley (2002)