

Subject:**KEY STAGE 4 FLEXIBILITY PILOT - PHASE 3****Circular Number:**
2002/3**Date of Issue:**
15 February 2002**Audience:**

- Principals and Boards of Governors of all grant-aided post-primary schools and special schools with secondary departments;
- Education and Library Boards;
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- Institutions of Further Education;
- Northern Ireland Business Education Partnership;
- Training Organisations; and
- Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.

Summary of Contents:

This Circular invites applications from schools wishing to disapply part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum in favour of a 2 year work-related programme commencing September 2002.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

Mrs Jean Coulter
Qualifications and Business/Education Links Branch
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT19 7PR

Governor Awareness:
Essential**Status of Contents:**
Advice
Information for schools**Related Documents:**

Letter of 5 April 2000
(Phase 1)
Letter of 11 December 2000
(Phase 2)

Superseded Documents:
None**Expiry Date:**
Closing date for applications is
17 May 2002**DE Website:**
This circular is available on
<http://www.deni.gov.uk>Tel: 028 9127 9406
Fax: 028 9127 9100**Additional Copies:**

Tel: 028 9127 9226

KEY STAGE 4 FLEXIBILITY PILOT - PHASE 3

Introduction

1. The Department has decided that the pilot arrangements for flexibility within the Key Stage 4 Curriculum should continue until the outcomes of the Curriculum Review for Key Stage 4 are implemented. This circular refers to the cohort of pupils commencing in September 2002.
2. The pilot was introduced in September 2000 and post-primary schools were invited to participate in a two year initiative for pupils commencing Year 11 and Year 12, with the aim of increasing flexibility and work-related learning in the Key Stage 4 curriculum. A second phase of the pilot commenced in September 2001.
3. The arrangements and conditions relating to the pilot are set out below. Please note that the Department's written approval is required before a school may avail of these arrangements, regardless of whether approval has been given for an earlier phase of the pilot.
4. **Applications must be submitted by 17 May 2002**, and should include details of the work related programme you propose to offer and the Area of Study you wish to disapply. A checklist of information required by the Department is enclosed (at Appendix A) to assist with the completion of applications.
5. Exceptionally, the Department will be prepared to consider first-time applications in respect of pupils in Year 12, where it can be demonstrated that the programme has been designed to facilitate progress into further education or training post-16.
6. Schools previously participating in the pilot are reminded that pupils, and their parents where possible, should be involved in the development of these programmes, and that every effort should be made to relate any work experience to courses of further education or other training undertaken.
7. Applications should be sent to the Department marked for the attention of Mrs Jean Coulter, QBEL Branch, copied to the Head of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services (CASS) of your local Education and Library Board, and in the case of Catholic maintained schools, copied to CCMS. The Department will respond to applications as quickly as possible.
8. If you require any further information please contact Jean Coulter on 91 279406.

Arrangements for Key Stage 4 Flexibility - Phase 3

9. The Department is prepared to vary the statutory curriculum requirements as indicated below, to allow schools to explore more creative and imaginative approaches to the curriculum at KS4. The experiences of these pupils will be evaluated to inform the full curriculum review currently being carried out by CCEA. The arrangements are as follows.
10. For cohorts of pupils commencing Year 11 in September 2002, and in relation only to schools (grammar and non-grammar) wishing to include or expand provision of **work-related learning** for their KS4 cohort:
 - a) Schools will be at liberty to disapply, in relation to any pupil or group of pupils, **any Area of Study (AoS)** and any programme of study or any subject, other than Religious Education (which, although compulsory, is not a part of the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum).
 - b) Schools will be expected to design appropriate 2 year learning programmes for each pupil (or aggregated group of pupils) which should be discussed and agreed with each pupil in the context of a

careers interview, where the pupil is able to make an informed choice, and, as far as possible, with his/her parents before the end of this school year.

- c) Learning programmes will be expected to demonstrate provision of reasonable breadth and balance of experience, cohesion and clear progression routes post-16.
 - d) Schools' proposed programmes should be prepared in collaboration with their Education and Library Board (see paragraph 14 below), and will be subject to the Department's prior approval in every case: this will enable the Department to ensure that in each case the programme which is being offered to pupils when the statutory provisions are disapplied is appropriate.
 - e) Where the learning programme proposed includes a work placement(s), the school will need to confirm in its proposal that the agreement of the firm(s) concerned has been secured, and that the arrangements meet their Education and Library Board's requirements for such placements. The proposal should also describe the nature of the work experience/training which it is proposed that the pupils will receive in their workplace, and how this fits into the overall learning programme for the pupils(s) concerned. The Northern Ireland Business Education Partnership (NIBEP) and local BEPs can provide useful contacts with business to facilitate such placements.
 - f) Although AoS requirements will not apply (and therefore no subject other than RE would be mandatory), the Department will expect to see a clear focus on the Key Skills of Communication, Application of Number and ICT in the programme for every pupil, for example through GCSE English and Mathematics, or through the Key Skills qualification at Levels 1 or 2 (or the Moser Basic Skills), or indeed through any of a range of courses currently available which lead to qualifications appropriate to pupils of differing abilities.
 - g) All courses must lead to a recognised and approved qualification. Should a course a school wishes to offer not appear in the Department's circulars 2001/12 or 2001/19 listing approved courses, the school should highlight the course within their application to enable the Department to consider it for inclusion in the next circular - this may include courses of less than one year's duration.
 - h) Courses such as NVQ units, which are workplace-based qualifications, or other vocational courses delivered through a Training Organisation, together with any work experience involved, must comprise no more than 40% of an individual pupil's total programme for the 2 years (although this may involve clustered periods of attendance in the Training Organisation/workplace).
 - i) The arrangements will be evaluated by the Inspectorate, and outcomes will inform CCEA's full Curriculum Review. There will be valuable lessons in how successfully schools can organise their provision, and the impact it has on pupil motivation, on opening up choice and opportunity for young people and in increasing their qualification base.
11. For the purposes of these arrangements, 'work-related learning' will be defined as GNVQs Part One or units, or other broad age-appropriate vocational courses which require learning in the workplace. For Phase 3 this definition is extended to include the new "Vocational GCSEs" offered for first teaching from September 2002. With the exception of GNVQ Part One in some vocational areas, **all work-related courses should be offered in partnership with a further education college or a training organisation** which can provide a broad range of programmes for pupils to sample and allow them to use equipment which is industry standard. *Study of additional modern languages, for example, or the 3 sciences instead of 'double award' science, will not be relevant for the purposes of these arrangements.* The focus will be solely on work-related learning: wider flexibility issues will be addressed in the context of the full Curriculum Review.
 12. Schools are encouraged to give particular attention to the opportunities offered by the creative and expressive professions when they are designing programmes and considering placements and courses

for their pupils. A list of organisations which schools may find helpful in considering work-related opportunities in the creative arts is included at Appendix B.

13. Initial experience of these arrangements has indicated that a significant majority of pupils involved have been boys. Schools should ensure that the arrangements are open to boys and girls equally; that participation is on the basis of choice by the pupil; and that suitable work placements, vocational courses or other training are available to suit the needs, aptitudes and interests of all the pupils to whom the arrangements will apply.
14. Schools are reminded that under Article 83 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, it is the duty of their Education and Library Board to make arrangements for pupils to receive secondary education at an institution of further education. The Board concerned will consult with the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools before any such arrangements are made for pupils attending a Catholic maintained school.
15. Schools should ensure that all teachers who will be teaching any pupil or group of pupils to whom these arrangements apply are made aware of the nature of the work-related course(s) the pupil(s) will be following. This will enable the teachers to consider how best their own in-school courses of study can complement the work-related elements, in order to maximise relevance and cohesion across the pupils' full educational programmes in Key Stage 4.
16. For the purposes of making the necessary disapplications, the Department intends to regard schools' proposals under these arrangements as development work, and to make disapplications on a school-by-school basis by way of a Departmental direction under Article 14 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

Child Protection

17. Care must be taken to ensure that appropriate child protection arrangements are in place for pupils whilst not in attendance at the school and information on how this is to be achieved should be included with the application. Further guidance may be obtained from the designated Child Protection Officer in your Education and Library Board and/or CCMS.

Resources

18. Schools must organise the proposed provision from within their normal budgets. The innovative nature of the provision within these two years, however, will allow the Department to determine whether additional resourcing is necessary for this type of provision, and at what level.

CHECKLIST**Section 1 - All applications**

- | | Yes |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Have you specified which Area(s) of Study you wish to disapply? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Are the pupils concerned covering a full course in the other Areas of Study? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Have you specified how many pupils will participate in the programme and what year they are in? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have the pupils been consulted about the content of the programme and chosen to participate? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Have parents attended a careers interview or been consulted? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Does the programme demonstrate balance, cohesion and clear progression routes? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Does the proposed work-related course lead to a recognised and approved qualification? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Is there a clear focus on the Key Skills – Communication, Application of Number and ICT? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Has the programme been prepared in consultation with your ELB? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Have you planned how you will evaluate the programme? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section 2 - Where programmes include work placement or FE/TO involvement

- | | Yes | n/a |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11. Have you specified the length of time on work placement, eg days per week, weeks per term, etc? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Have you specified the length of time of FE/TO involvement, eg days per week, weeks per term, etc?
Please note if you have ticked 'Yes' for 9 and/or 10 above, the time involved must comprise no more than 40% of an individual pupil's total programme for the 2 years. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Have child protection arrangements been put in place?
The Department may at any time request a copy of the school's child protection policy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

CREATIVE ARTS CONTACTS

Arts and Disability

Sharon Turtle
Adapt Northern Ireland
73-75 Great Victoria Street
BELFAST
BT2 7AF

Tel: 9023 1221

Drama/Music/Festivals

Eamonn Bradley
Ardhowen Theatre
Dublin Road
ENNISKILLEN
Co Fermanagh
BT74 6BR

Tel: 6632 3233

Exhibitions, Drama/Dance, Crafts

Kate Wimpres
Ards Arts
Ards Arts Centre
Town Hall
Conway Square
NEWTOWNARDS
Co Down
BT23 4DD

Tel: 9181 0803

Visual Arts, Printmaking

James Allen
Belfast Print Workshop
185 Stranmillis Road
BELFAST
BT9 5EE

Tel: 9068 7223

Music/Training Workshops

Petesy Burns
Belfast Youth and Community Group
1/5 Donegall Lane
BELFAST
BT1 2LZ

Tel: 9024 4640

Literature, Publications

Anne Tannahill
Blackstaff Press Ltd
Wildflower Way
Apollo Road
BELFAST
BT12 6TA

Tel: 9022 2844

Arts Development

Dearbhal McMullan
Bryson House
28 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7FE

Tel: 9032 5835

Theatre

Tony McCance
Burnavon
Burn Road
COOKSTOWN
Co Tyrone
BT80 8DN

Tel: 8676 9949

Visual Arts, Exhibitions

Phil Collins/Joanna Fursmann
Catalyst Arts
5 Exchange Place
BELFAST
BT1 2NA

Tel: 9031 3303

Film, Animation

Shona McCarthy
Cinemagic
17-21 Donegal Place
BELFAST
BT1 5AB

Tel: 9031 1900

Literature, Visual Arts Publication

Daan Bruijfel
Circa Art Magazine
17a Ormeau Avenue
BELFAST
BT2 8HD

Tel: 9023 0375

Music

Kevin Murphy
Classical Music Society
Foyle Arts Centre
Lawrence Hill
LONDONDERRY
BT48 7NJ

Tel: 7126 6657

Exhibitions, Community Events, Drama Dance

Philip Magennis
Clotworthy Arts Centre
Antrim Castle Gardens
Randalstown Road
ANTRIM
BT41 4LH

Tel: 9442 8000

Visual Arts Exhibitions

Context Gallery
The Playhouse
5-7 Artillery Street
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6RG

Tel: 7137 3538

**Music/Drama/Dance
Workshops/Community Programme**

Liz Doonan
Crescent Arts Centre
2-4 University Road
BELFAST
BT7 1NH

Tel: 9024 2338

Traditional Arts/Community Festival

Mr Cormac O Coinn
Culturlann MacAdam O Fiaich
216 Falls Road
BELFAST
BT12 6AW

Tel: 9023 9303

**Drama/Dance/Exhibitions/Community
Events**

Veronica Rice
Down Arts
2-6 Irish Street
DOWNPATRICK
Co Down
BT30 6BN

Tel: 4461 5283

Arts and Disability

Isabel Kelly
Down Community Arts
Day Care Services
Downshire Hospital
Ardglass Road
DOWNPATRICK
Co Down

Tel: 4461 6006

Music and Disability

Therese Burns
Drake Music Project Northern Ireland
Head Office - Unit 5 RDC
WIN Business Park
Canal Quay
NEWRY
Co Down
BT35 6PH

Tel: 3026 2100

Arts and Disability Projects

Iain Davidson
Dungannon Disability Arts Studio
DDAS Unit 40
Dungannon Enterprise Centre
2 Coalisland Road
DUNGANNON
Co Tyrone
BT71

Tel: 8775 3626

Visual Arts

Joanne Jamison
East Belfast Arts Collective
Engine Room Gallery
Portview Trade Centre
310 Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 1HE

Tel: 9045 5184

Traditional Arts

Ms Caitriona Ruane
Feile an Phobail
473 Falls Road
BELFAST
BT12 6DD

Tel: 9031 3440

Drama/Dance/Visual/Community Programmes

Malcolm Murchison
Flowerfield Arts Centre
185 Coleraine Road
PORTSTEWART
Co Londonderry
BT55 7HN

Tel: 7083 3959

Performing Arts

Derek Nicholls
Grand Opera House
Great Victoria Street
BELFAST
BT2 7HR

Tel: 9024 0411

Dance and Education Programme Workshops

Steve Batts
Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company
The Playhouse
5-7 Artillery Street
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6RG

Tel: 7130 8635

Visual Arts

Mike Hogg
Flax Arts Studios
Edenderry Industrial Estate
298-330 Crumlin Road
BELFAST
BT14 7EE

Tel: 9074 8025

Drama/Dance/Community Events

Foyle Arts Centre
Lawrence Hill
LONDONDERRY
BT48 7NJ

Tel: 7126 6657

Music/Drama/Community Events

Christina Hurson
Harmony Hill Arts Centre
54 Harmony Hill
LISBURN
Co Antrim
BT27 4ES

Tel: 9262 8864

Theatre/Education

Tania Carlisle
Kabosh
Old Museum Arts Centre
7 College Square North
BELFAST
BT1 6AR

Tel: 9024 3343

Contemporary Music

Brian Carson
Moving on Music
7 University Road
BELFAST
BT7 1NA

Tel: 9024 8818

Drama/Dance/Theatre/Performance

Lizzie Devlin
Old Museum Arts Centre
7 College Square North
BELFAST
BT1 6AR

Tel: 9023 5053

Arts and Disability

Kate Ingram
Open Arts
c/o Crescent Arts Centre
2-4 University Road
BELFAST
BT7 1NH

Tel: 9031 2515

Visual Arts

Brendan McMenamin
Orchard Gallery
Orchard Street
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6EG

Tel: 7126 9675

Visual/Education

Hugh Mulholland
Ormeau Baths Gallery
18a Ormeau Avenue
BELFAST
BT2 8HS

Tel: 9032 1402

Film/Photography

Richard West
Photoworks North/Source Magazine
3 Botanic Avenue
BELFAST
BT7 1JG

Tel: 9032 9691

Drama/Dance/Exhibitions

Rosaleen McMullan
Pinebank Resource Centre
Tullygally Road
CRAIGAVON
Co Armagh
BT65 5BY

Tel: 3834 1199

Theatre/Performance

Ruth Ogston
Prime Cut Productions
404 McAvoy House
17a Ormeau Avenue
BELFAST
BT2 8HD

Tel: 9031 3156

Visual Arts

David Dubose
Seacourt Print Workshop
78 Hamilton Road
BANGOR
Co Down
BT20 4LG

Tel: 9146 0595

Performance/Education/Drama/Dance

Pauline Ross
The Playhouse
5-7 Artillery Street
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6RG

Tel: 7126 4481

Literature/Education

Aideen Doherty
Verbal Arts Centre (NI) Ltd
Cathedral School Building
London Street
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6RQ

Tel: 7126 6946

Theatre/Drama/Performance

Janet Mackle
Riverside Theatre
University of Ulster
COLERAINE
Co Londonderry
BT52 1SA

Tel: 7032 4683

Community/Film/Technology

Pearse Moore
The Nerve Centre
7-8 Magazine Street
LONDONDERRY
BT48 6HJ

Tel: 7126 0562

Theatre/Education

Eamon Quinn
Tinderbox Theatre Company
McAvoy House
17a Ormeau Avenue
BELFAST
BT2 8HD

Tel: 9043 9313

Children's Festival/Performance

Anna Cutler
Young at Art
Central Building
Room D105
Stranmillis University College
BELFAST
BT9 5DY

Tel: 9066 0515