



Further information can be found on the Department's website

Should you have any comments on any of the information contained in this newsletter, please forward them to ppst@deni.gov.uk

Other websites of interest:

The Department for Employment & Learning www.delni.gov.uk

The Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment www.ccea.org.uk

Regional Training Unit www.rtuni.org

Northern Ireland Network for Education www.nine.org.uk

Government information and services (including education) www.onlineni.net

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the second edition of "Entitled to Succeed" and my first since taking up post as Minister with responsibility for Education. Through this newsletter, the Department of Education will keep you informed about important developments in "e2s", the co-ordinated programme of reforms changing our educational landscape.

I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to become involved in this flagship programme at this time. The decisions already taken have given us a clear direction and there are more decisions about the detail of the new

arrangements still to be taken. It is important that teachers are kept fully informed about the new arrangements and have the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process.

Options for the new admissions arrangements were the subject of a recent consultation and my thanks to those who took the time to respond. This is an issue which I want to consider carefully and I can assure you that all views will be taken into account. I intend to publish a report summarising the responses and make an announcement on the way forward in November.

I look forward to working with all our education partners to ensure that the new post-primary arrangements meet the needs of all our pupils.



Entitled to Succeed comprises the four elements detailed below. For further information, see the first edition of this newsletter (copies available from the Post-Primary Support Team at the DE address overleaf or from the website at www.deni.gov.uk/22-ppa-newse2snewsletter.pdf)

Recent developments include:

THE NEW POST-PRIMARY ARRANGEMENTS

Admissions Consultation

- ⇒ On 28 January 2005, the Department published a consultation document on options for new admissions arrangements for post-primary schools, to be used after 2008 when academic selection ends.
- ⇒ Copies of the document and response booklet were issued to schools earlier in the year.
- ⇒ The responses were analysed over the summer. The Minister will publish a summary report and make an announcement on the way forward in November.

Specialist Schools

- ⇒ On 5 March 2005, a Specialist Schools pilot was announced.
- ⇒ The pilot will involve around 10 schools and will test aspects of the model for their suitability in a local context. It is hoped to expand the pilot over the next two years, with the prospect of a wider roll-out in the future.
- ⇒ An invitation to take part in the first pilot was issued to all schools on 5 September and the response from schools has been encouraging. Further information can be found in the booklet "Specialist Schools in the Northern Ireland Context", which can be downloaded from the DE website at: www.deni.gov.uk/22-ppa-kaspecialistschoolsconcept.pdf
- ⇒ An independent panel will assess the applications and the successful schools will be announced in the New Year.

Entitlement Framework Guidance

- ⇒ Guidance on the implementation of the Entitlement Framework was issued to all schools on 15th June. Further guidance will issue at the end of the autumn term.
- ⇒ Key areas covered in the guidance include a detailed description of the Entitlement Framework; definitions of applied and general courses; progression routes and careers advice and guidance for young people; and guidance for schools to conduct an audit of current provision.
- ⇒ The full guidance is available at: www.deni.gov.uk/2005_18-entitlement_framework-initial_guidance.pdf ⇒ Further guidance will cover in more detail some of the practical considerations of delivering the Entitlement Framework, including

aspects of co-operation and collaboration, transport, timetabling issues and pastoral care.

- ⇒ In June 2005 additional resources were provided to the Education and Library Boards and to CCMS to facilitate the planning and development of collaborative arrangements between schools and Colleges at a local level.
- ⇒ Schools have also been given up to four additional closure days (referred to as School Development Days) to consider a range of issues, including the implications of the Entitlement Framework in post-primary schools. DE Circular 2005/03, gives more detail on these closure days and can be obtained at: www.deni.gov.uk/sch_development_days_05_06.pdf

Pupil Profile

- ⇒ The Pupil Profile will provide a holistic picture of each child's progress, aptitudes and interests, throughout their education. CCEA has been developing the Pupil Profile over the last 2 years, piloting it with a number of schools during this time.
- ⇒ The Pupil Profile will be implemented for Year 5 pupils in 2007/08 and subsequently phased in for other year groups. CCEA have reported on the evaluation of the second year of development and the findings have further informed the 2005/06 pilot.
- ⇒ The input of parents and teachers continues to make an essential contribution to the development of the Pupil Profile and the evaluation process. The pilot is being extended to more schools in 2005/06.
- ⇒ The KS3 Pupil Profile is also being developed and will be piloted during 2005/06 in a number of post-primary schools.
- ⇒ An outline of the content of the Pupil Profile is available at: www.deni.gov.uk/index/22-postprimaryarrangements-new-arrangements_pg/22-ppa-key_areas_pg/22-ppa-ka-pp_pg.htm

Co-operation and Collaboration

- ⇒ The Vocational Enhancement Programme is jointly funded by the Department for Employment and Learning and the Department of Education to stimulate collaboration between schools and FE Colleges, and to provide feedback to inform future developments.
- ⇒ An independent evaluation of the 2004/05 pilot shows some very positive examples of collaborative working between schools and colleges, with benefits for the pupils, schools and colleges involved. Challenges have also been identified such as timetabling, pastoral care, the range of courses available and the delivery mechanisms.
- ⇒ The Department is considering how best to disseminate the findings of the evaluation and draw out the lessons to inform future collaborative

arrangements. This may take the form of a conference focused on the delivery of the Entitlement Framework in the New Year.

- ⇒ From September 2005 the VEP pilot has been expanded to involve all 16 FE Colleges, working closely with schools in their locality to deliver vocational education to some 160 schools and 11,500 pupils aged 14-19. Ongoing evaluation will seek to identify practical difficulties and ways in which these can be resolved.

New 6th Form Guidance

- ⇒ In recent years, there has been a growth in the number of very small 6th forms. In many cases these 6th forms provide a very limited range of opportunities for pupils, with access to a very small number of courses. This has also resulted in some duplication of provision and competition among schools and between schools and the FE sector.
- ⇒ On 1 April 2005, the Department issued a circular to schools requiring new 6th forms to be subject to Departmental approval. The aim is to ensure that new 6th form provision is being strategically planned, taking into account existing local provision and taking steps towards providing access to the Entitlement Framework.

THE NEW CURRICULUM

- ⇒ CCEA has commenced development work on a range of guidance material for the new curriculum for primary and post-primary schools, including whole school guidance for senior management, learning area/subject strand guidance for Heads of Department and classroom activities for subject teachers. This work should be completed by the end of the Autumn term.
- ⇒ The new curriculum and assessment arrangements were launched by the Partnership Management Board (PMB) in September. Awareness raising conferences for Head Teachers are planned to commence in November 2005 and training for teachers will commence in 2006.
- ⇒ PMB includes representatives of DE, CCEA, Heads of CASS and the Regional Training Unit and has been set up to manage the implementation of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements, including drawing up plans for training and support. It represents the real partnership work which has gone on in drawing up these plans. Teachers can find more information on the curriculum and assessment implementation plans in the PMB's newsletter "Partnership for Progress", which will be launched later this term.

THE SCHOOLS ESTATE

- ⇒ The Department is committed to greater strategic planning of the schools estate, taking account of the implications of the continuing demographic downturn. Future developments, including a policy on

small schools, will ensure the best educational provision for children and that resources are used effectively and efficiently.

- ⇒ In March 2005, the Department of Education published for consultation a report on proposals for new procurement and delivery arrangements for the schools estate.
- ⇒ The report proposes several key changes to the way capital investment in schools is planned and procured. This is necessary because of the planned programme of investment in the schools estate and the responses to the consultation are being analysed.

ICT

- ⇒ E-Learning has a central role to play in teaching and learning, and in particular in the delivery of the new curriculum and the Entitlement Framework. It will also have a key role in assessment, pupil profiles, collaborative learning for teachers and pupils alike and school leadership.
- ⇒ The new curriculum will ensure that ICT is embedded in all subjects by forming a natural element of teaching, learning and assessment, thereby ensuring that young people are well prepared for life and work in the information economy of the 21st Century.
- ⇒ A number of ICT projects are already ongoing. These are exploring opportunities to apply ICT to professional development for student teachers, teaching and support staff and for teaching and learning in ways which protect and promote the highest standards in education.

FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

- There will be a number of important announcements and events over the next 6 months that you should be aware of, including:
- ⇒ Publication of the summary report on the admissions consultation and an announcement on the way forward.
 - ⇒ Publication of the draft Education Order for consultation. This is expected to include provisions relating to the new curriculum, the Entitlement Framework and the new post-primary admissions arrangements.
 - ⇒ Issuing the 2nd stage of the Entitlement Framework Guidance.
 - ⇒ The Circular outlining the details of VEP 2006/07 and an application form for schools to take part.
 - ⇒ Announcements on the schools selected for the Specialist Schools pilot.
 - ⇒ Curriculum awareness raising conferences for Head Teachers.
 - ⇒ Conference on the implementation and delivery of the Entitlement Framework (to be confirmed).

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
KS4 flexibility - last new cohort	Phased implementation of the new curriculum begins	Phased roll-out of the new curriculum	Phased roll-out of the new curriculum	Phased roll-out of the new curriculum
Curriculum awareness training for Senior Staff	Curriculum INSET	Curriculum INSET continues	Curriculum INSET continues	Curriculum INSET continues
Consultation on the Draft Education Order				
Further guidance on the Entitlement Framework: Schools begin audit process	Entitlement Framework:- widening access and developing collaboration	Entitlement Framework:- widening access and developing collaboration	Entitlement Framework:- widening access and developing collaboration	Entitlement Framework in place
VEP Phase 2	VEP Phase 3	Dissemination of VEP evaluation		
Publication of summary report and announcement on way forward on admissions arrangements			New admissions arrangements and criteria in place for Y6 pupils	First Y7 cohort to participate in the new admissions arrangements
			Last Transfer Tests for Y7 pupils	Last cohort to transfer using Transfer Test results
Pupil Profile pilots extended	Pupil Profile – large scale pilot	Pupil Profile – in place for Y5	Pupil Profiles in place for Y1,2,5,6,8,9	Pupil Profiles in place for Y1 to 12
Selection of schools for Specialist Schools pilot	First Specialist Schools launched	Specialist Schools pilot continues	Specialist Schools pilot continues	Specialist Schools pilot continues