



Further information can be found on the Department's website at;

<http://www.deni.gov.uk/pprb/index.htm>

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

You may also find the websites below of interest:

The Department for Employment & Learning [www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

The Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

Regional Training Unit [www.rtuni.org](http://www.rtuni.org)

Northern Ireland Network for Education [www.nine.org.uk](http://www.nine.org.uk)

Government information and services (including education) [www.onlineni.net](http://www.onlineni.net)



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**FOREWORD BY BARRY GARDINER MP**

We are moving forward with the most important educational developments in Northern Ireland for many years. The new post-primary arrangements are one element of an integrated programme of reforms, which includes the implementation of the new curriculum, the development and enhancement of the schools estate and the continuing development of ICT as a teaching and learning tool. These are being taken forward as a co-ordinated programme called "Entitled to Succeed (e2s)".

The programme will underpin an education system that puts the pupil at the centre, and provides equality of access and opportunities for all young people to prepare them for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The year ahead will present many challenges and opportunities for schools, teachers and pupils as we begin to see the new post-primary arrangements being implemented at school level. It is important that we work together to deliver an education system that will benefit all of our young people. I would encourage you to take the time to read this and future editions of the Newsletter, as one way of keeping up to date with new developments and progress in the implementation of the new arrangements.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone within the education service for their dedication and commitment and to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**WHAT IS THE 'ENTITLED TO SUCCEED' PROGRAMME?**

This programme is about ensuring that four inter-linked policy areas are taken forward in a coherent and co-ordinated way. The four areas are detailed below:

**THE NEW POST-PRIMARY ARRANGEMENTS**

Government has accepted the recommendations of the Post-Primary Review Working Group (the Costello Report) as a sound basis on which to move forward. Details of these recommendations and the Government's response can be found on the Department's website.

The key aspects of the new arrangements are:

- ⇒ **All pupils will have access to a Curriculum Entitlement Framework.**
- ⇒ Transfer from primary to post-primary school will be based on **informed parental choice.**
- ⇒ **New transfer arrangements** will be required including new admissions criteria to be used by schools when oversubscribed.
- ⇒ **A Pupil Profile** will be developed for each child.

Parents will have a wider range of schools to choose from, including schools offering an academic emphasis, schools offering a wider range of vocational courses and specialist schools. Parents will determine the school which best meets their children's interests and needs.

All schools will have a role in the new arrangements, contributing to the broad tapestry of provision in a local area. Schools, working in partnership, will determine the arrangements for their local area. The Department will issue guidance to schools to help them develop this partnership approach.

**Curriculum Entitlement Framework**

**Summary**

This new approach will guarantee all pupils access to a much wider range of academic and vocational courses at Key Stage 4 and post-16, providing access to a minimum of 24 courses at Key Stage 4, and a minimum of 27 courses at post-16. At least one third of these courses will be academic and at least one third will be vocational. Schools will provide access to this choice and flexibility through working with each other and with FE colleges.

**Update**

Guidance on the Entitlement Framework and the steps schools will need to take to provide their pupils with access is being prepared by the Department and will be issued to schools in the spring term. The guidance will also indicate the timetable for putting the Framework in place, so that schools will have time to prepare.

**Cooperation and Collaboration**

**Summary**

Schools will work in collaboration with each other and with their local FE college to provide pupils with access to the full range of courses required by the Entitlement Framework.

**Update**

In June this year, the Department of Education and the Department for Employment and Learning, together with the Association of Northern Ireland Colleges (ANIC), held information and awareness seminars in FE colleges in each Education and Library Board area. The aim was to promote collaboration between post-primary schools and Further Education colleges. Representatives from post-primary schools were able to see at first hand the facilities of the colleges, and find out about the range of courses on offer at all the FE colleges and training providers in their Board area.

A Vocational Enhancement Programme started in September this year building on existing partnerships between schools and FE colleges, to examine the benefits, practicalities and obstacles to collaboration. Lessons from these partnerships will be disseminated to help schools in developing arrangements to meet the needs of their pupils. Phase 2 of this programme will begin in September 2005 and will explore a range of delivery mechanisms for vocational courses, including the use of ICT and distance learning. More details of this phase will be announced soon.

**Specialist Schools**

**Summary**

A major conference about Specialist Schools was held on 16 November this year involving speakers from the Specialist Schools' Trust and principals from a range of specialist schools in England. Representatives of all post-primary schools were invited to attend.

**Update**

Details of the conference are available on the RTU website. The way forward for specialist schools in Northern Ireland including possible pilot arrangements, are being considered.

**New Admissions Arrangements**

**Summary**

Academic selection will end, with the last Transfer Tests held in autumn 2008. New admissions arrangements are being developed at present. The aim is to ensure that the new arrangements are fair, free from any inadvertent bias and easily understood by parents.

**Update**

A consultation document on proposed new admissions arrangements, including a menu of admissions criteria to be used by schools when oversubscribed, will be published shortly. Details of how you can contribute to the consultation will also be announced.

**Pupil Profile**

**Summary**

The Pupil Profile, being developed by CCEA, will provide a fuller picture of a child's aptitudes, interests and needs. This will help parents to make informed choices, but it will not be used by post-primary schools to decide whether or not to admit a pupil.

**Update**

CCEA has been developing the Pupil Profile for over a year, and has been testing and refining it with the help of teachers and parents. An evaluation after the first year has contributed to the ongoing development and piloting of the Pupil Profile this year. Pilots will be extended over the next year, with a full-scale pilot involving all schools planned for 2006/07.

**Strategic Advisory Group**

**Summary**

A Strategic Advisory Group, drawn from managing authorities and key education organisations, has been set up to provide advice to the Department of Education on implementation issues.

**Update**

The group has met on a number of occasions to provide advice on a range of issues including the Entitlement Framework, Specialist Schools, collaboration, and new admissions arrangements.

**THE NEW CURRICULUM**

**Summary**

On 23 June this year, the Minister announced his acceptance of CCEA's proposals for a revised curriculum to be implemented from 2006. The Minister's speech is on the Department's website, and details of the new curriculum and its implementation can be found at CCEA's website.

**Update**

By now schools will have received a copy of CCEA's 'The Way Ahead' magazine which will keep schools up to date on curriculum developments. CCEA has commenced work on expanding the range of vocational qualifications available including the development of new AVCEs in Business, ICT and Health and Social Care, a new GCSE in Engineering and an AS level in Learning for Life and Work.

**THE SCHOOLS ESTATE**

**Summary**

The aim is to continue to raise standards through a schools estate that supplies sufficient places to meet future demand; provides a stimulating environment suitable for delivering the curriculum in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and meets the required building and energy efficiency standards.

**Update**

In April this year, the Minister announced that the additional investment in the schools estate would be accompanied by new streamlined procurement and delivery arrangements. A study, sponsored by the Department and the Strategic Investment Board, is underway to develop proposals and school authorities will be consulted about this in due course.

**ICT**

**Summary**

ICT has a central role in progressing the new post-primary arrangements, including teaching and learning, the new curriculum and the Entitlement Framework, assessment, Pupil Profiles, school leadership, and collaborative working for teachers and pupils alike. C2K is providing the infrastructure to facilitate these developments.

**Update**

Pilots of on-line learning courses for GCSE pupils are testing the feasibility of providing specialist expertise in teaching and assessment on-line, and exploring the potential for e-learning to extend and enhance access to AVCE programmes for pupils in schools. The number of courses available for on-line teaching will be increased as this project progresses.

2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Guidance from CCEA on KS3/KS4 Curriculum	KS4 flexibility – last cohort Curriculum INSET continues Training for Senior Staff	Curriculum INSET continues	Curriculum INSET continues	Curriculum INSET continues	Curriculum INSET continues
Guidance to schools on Entitlement Framework VEP Phase 1	Schools audit provision against Entitlement Framework requirements VEP Phase 2	Entitlement Framework: - developing collaboration VEP evaluation	Entitlement Framework: - developing collaboration	Entitlement Framework: - developing collaboration	Entitlement Framework in place
Consultation on new admissions arrangements				New admissions arrangements and criteria in place Last Transfer Tests	Last cohort to transfer using Transfer Test results
Pupil Profile pilots	Pupil Profile pilots	Pupil Profile – large scale pilot	Pupil Profile – in place for Y5	Pupil Profile in place for Y5 and Y6	First Y7 pupils make choices under the new arrangements