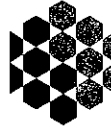


PERMANENT SECRETARY

Will Haire



Department of
Education

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Date:- 9 November 2009

Chuíg: Cathaoirleach Bhord na nGobharnóirí agus Príomhoide gach Iar-Bhunscoile

To: The Chairpersons of Boards of Governors and Principals of all Post-Primary Schools

Leagtar amach polasaí na Roinne maidir le haistriú sa Treoir um Aistriú 2010, a d'fhoilsigh an Roinn ar 25 Meitheamh 2009. Is éard atá faoi chaibidil le cuid mhór den ábhar atá faoi iamh sa litir seo ná na rioscaí a bhaineann le teisteanna iontrála neamhrialaithe mar a luaitear sa Treoir seo. Ba chóir go dtuigfeadh gach scoil go measann an Roinn, go bunúsach, gurb í tarraingt siar na dteisteanna neamhrialaithe an bealach is cinnte chun na rioscaí a bhaineann leis na teisteanna seo a dhíbirt.

Scríobh an Roinn inniu chuig na 5 Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne chun tacar treoracha a sholáthar dóibh ar chóir iad a úsáid, agus iad ag obair leis na hiarbhunscoileanna, chun leasuithe tábhachtacha a chinntiú maidir leis na hiontrálacha a bhfuil sé beartaithe ag scoileanna iad a fhoilsiú sna Leabhráin Aistrithe le haghaidh Aistriú 2010. Tá na treoracha seo faoi iamh. D'fhéadfadh sé go rachadh an Bord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne agat i dteagmháil leat maidir leis na treoracha seo.

The Transfer 2010 Guidance published by the Department on 25 June 2009 is the Department's policy on transfer. The subject of much of the material enclosed with this letter is the risks posed by unregulated entrance tests as raised in this Guidance. All schools should understand that ultimately the Department considers the withdrawal of unregulated tests to be the surest way of removing the risks these tests pose.

The Department has today written to the 5 Education and Library Boards providing to them a set of instructions which they should use, working with post-primary schools, to secure important amendments to the entries that schools plan to publish in the Transfer Booklets for Transfer 2010. These instructions are enclosed. Your Education and Library Board may be in contact with you in respect of these instructions.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Tuigfidh scoileanna, tá súil agam, go bhfuil Cuid 1 den cháipéis atá faoi iamh dírithe ar an próiseas iarratas a dhéanamh soiléir insroichte ar mhaithe le tuismitheoirí. Tá comhfhreagracht reachtúil ar an Roinn agus ar na Boird maidir leis an phróiseas iarratas agus chuirfinn béim, mar sin, ar thábhacht na leasuithe mar atá leagtha síos i gCuid 1 de na treoracha seo.

Baineann an t-ábhar i gCuid 2 le stóinseacht na gcritéar iontrála mar bhonn le cinntí iontrála. Luíonn an fhreagracht maidir leis seo go hiomlán le Bord na nGobharnóirí i ngach scoil. Is mian leis an Roinn cuidiú agus comhairle a sholáthar ar an ábhar go bhfuil gá le próiseas iontrála lena féidir, ar mhaithe le tuismitheoirí, cinntí stóinsithe dochloíte a sholáthar i mBealtaine 2010. Ba chóir go dtuigfeadh gach scoil go measann an Roinn, go bunúsach, gurb í tarraingt siar na dteisteanna neamhrialaithe an bealach is cinnte chun na rioscaí a bhaineann leis na teisteanna seo a dhíbirt. Má tá a thuilleadh comhairle de dhíth ar aon scoil, ba chóir dul i dteagmháil leis an Fhoireann Rochtana Scoile ag an Roinn Oideachais: paul.price@deni.gov.uk

Baineann na treoracha seo leis an ábhar a bhfuil sé beartaithe ag scoileanna é a fhoilsiú sna Leabhráin Aistrithe de chuid na mBord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne. Más rud é, áfach, go bhfuil an t-ábhar seo foilsithe cheana in áiteanna eile, is léir go mbeidh sé tábhachtach ag scoileanna leasuithe a eisiúint maidir leis an ábhar foilsithe seo chomh maith, ar mhaithe le soiléireacht.

Yours sincerely
Will Haire

WILL HAIRE

Schools will I hope appreciate that Part 1 of the document enclosed is focused on making the applications process clear and accessible in the interests of parents. The Department and the ELBs share a statutory responsibility for the applications process and I would stress, therefore, the importance of the amendments outlined in Part 1 of these instructions.

Part 2 relates to the robustness of admissions criteria as the basis for admissions decisions. Responsibility for this rests entirely with the Board of Governors of individual schools. The Department wishes to assist and advise because of the need for an admissions process that, in the interests of parents, delivers robust and conclusive decisions in May 2010. All schools should understand that ultimately the Department considers the withdrawal of unregulated tests to be the surest way of removing the risks these tests pose. Schools seeking further advice should contact the School Access Team, Department of Education: paul.price@deni.gov.uk

The instructions relate to the material that schools plan to publish in the ELB Transfer Booklets. However, if this material is already published elsewhere, it will obviously be important for schools to issue amendments to this published material also, in the interests of clarity.