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To: Post – Primary Principals

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Dear Principal

This letter provides an update on the development of the Pupil Profile and changes to statutory assessment as a result of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

IMPACT OF EDUCATION (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 ON KEY STAGE 3 TESTS

The Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 revokes previous legislation in relation to the curriculum and assessment arrangements. The result of this is that previous curriculum and assessment arrangements, including the end of Key Stage 3 tests, are not statutory in 2006-7. This will allow all schools that wish to do so to discontinue teaching towards end of Key Stage 3 tests from now on and to make the transition to the revised curriculum on a phased basis.

To facilitate those schools that may wish to continue with the Key Stage 3 assessment arrangements for their own reasons, the Department has agreed that CCEA may make the tests available on a voluntary basis in May 2007 and 2008, depending on the extent of demand for this service. CCEA will be in touch with schools in the very near future to ascertain the levels of demand for this service.

PROGRESS WITH DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUPIL PROFILE

You will be aware that the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 includes provision to replace the annual end of year school report with a cumulative Pupil Profile. The main focus of CCEA development work to date has been to ensure that the format and report-writing software to support the Primary Pupil Profile is ready for use in 2007-8 in relation to Year 5 pupils, who will be the first cohort of pupils to leave primary school in 2010 with a Pupil Profile.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Updated exemplars and information leaflets on the Primary Pupil Profile have been placed on the CCEA web-site (www.ccea.org.uk) and the interim evaluation report from the BDO Stoy Hayward evaluation team will be placed on the web-site by the end of September 2006.

Meantime 25 post-primary schools have been working with CCEA officers to refine a flexible format and approach to the Key Stage 3 Pupil Profile, which will be phased in from 2008-9. These refined proposals, along with the proposed arrangements for statutory assessment at all key stages, will be considered by CCEA's Curriculum and Assessment Committee and Council in September 2006 and forwarded immediately as advice to the Department of Education. The details of the proposed statutory assessment arrangements for all Key Stages, including outline proposals for the Key Stage 3 Profile, will be made available to all schools as soon as possible thereafter. It is hoped that the schools that have been involved in development work to date will agree to trial the Key Stage 3 Pupil Profile in 2006-7.

I trust you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lorraine Finlay".

Lorraine Finlay
Curriculum and Qualifications Branch