



Department of  
**Education**

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AN ROINN  
**Oideachais**

MÁNNYSTRIE O  
**Lear**

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17 September 2010

Dear Principal

### **Assessment Arrangements to support the Revised Curriculum**

Following consultation, the broad principles of the future new statutory assessment arrangements to support the revised Curriculum (including the levels of progression for the cross-curricular skills) have now been agreed.

### **Timescales for Implementation**

In Circular 2010/06, we indicated that these new assessment arrangements would not be introduced until we were satisfied that schools were provided with the training, support and guidance they need to implement the arrangements effectively.

Taking this into account we sought advice from groups of principals, teachers' unions and CCEA about timescales for introduction.

Following consideration of this advice we can now confirm that the future new **statutory assessment arrangements for Communication and Using Mathematics will be introduced in the 2012-13 school year, and the arrangements for Using ICT one year later in 2013-14.**

### **Assessment Implementation Programme**

The Department will be working with the other education bodies to ensure that teachers and principals have the time, training and support they need to implement the arrangements; that practitioners are involved in this process; and that the new arrangements are communicated clearly. Assessment will be set within the broader policy context, incorporating a clear focus on the role of assessment in raising standards in literacy and numeracy and in supporting wider school improvement.

There will be a system-wide training and support programme led by CCEA, working together with the ELBs' Curriculum Advisory and Support Services, to support the implementation of the assessment arrangements for the cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

This programme will begin with awareness raising events for principals and senior managers in November 2010, which will outline key messages about the arrangements and the planned training programme.

For the school year 2010-11, the focus will be on development of the details of the assessment process, piloting training models and on communication and awareness raising in the system. Throughout this phase CCEA will work with practitioners and teachers' unions with a concentrated focus on **full system training in 2011-12 for Communication and Using Mathematics, and 2012-13 for Using ICT.**

The Levels of Progression and accompanying guidance will shortly be available on the NI Curriculum web site **for reference and information only.** They can be viewed by those who wish to familiarise themselves with the material prior to the roll-out of training.

### **Existing Arrangements**

**Until the new levels of progression are introduced, the existing, transitional, arrangements for assessment and existing levels continue to apply** for assessing pupils' performance in literacy and numeracy at the end of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3; for the reporting of their performance to their parents; and for the collection and reporting at system level on attainment in literacy and numeracy.

Yours sincerely



**KATRINA GODFREY**  
**Director – Curriculum, Qualifications & Standards Directorate**