

Language and Terminology in Guidance

“A key recommendation from the National Consultation on a Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance (DE, 2023) is that of the promotion and correct use of key terms in language relating to guidance.” DEY, Circular 01/2025.

Guidance

“Guidance is holistic by definition. It involves integrating the personal and social development of the individual into any education and career development, and planning for informed and meaningful decisions”

(DEY Circular 01/2025, p.6)

Guidance counselling

“Guidance counselling in schools is a specialised guidance service, provided by the guidance counsellor only... Guidance counselling refers to the role of the guidance counsellor, and the work undertaken by the guidance counsellor with students/parents in all aspects of guidance (educational, career, person and social)”

(DEY Circular 01/2025, p.6)

Counselling in a guidance context

“Counselling in a guidance context involves the utilisation of guidance-counselling skills to support a student with personal/social developmental issues.

(DEY Circular 01/2025, p.6)

Whole-school guidance (WSG)

“WSG refers to a school-wide approach to supporting students with their personal and social, educational and career development. It recognises that all members of school staff... can play a supporting role.”

(DEY Information Note 01/2024, p.3)

What is
Guidance?

A whole-school guidance programme

“The guidance programme is designed to meet the needs of students (and parents) through the implementation of a range of learning experiences provided in a developmental sequence that assist students to develop self-management skills, which will lead to effective choices and decisions about their lives.

(DEY Information Note 01/2024, p.3)

Lifelong guidance

“Lifelong guidance supports the personal and career development of an individual throughout their lifespan.”

(Government of Ireland, ‘*National Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance (2024-2030)*’, p.20.)

Whole-school guidance team

“WSG planning and practice is not the responsibility of any one individual in a post-primary school. Rather, a WSG team should support planning and development of a WSG programme and plan.”

(DEY Information Note 01/2024, p.6)

A whole-school guidance plan.

“A guidance plan is a comprehensive document that contains key information about how WSG operates in the school in order to meet the guidance needs of the students and their parents.”

(DEY, Information Note 01/2024, p.4)



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