OIDE GUIDANCE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

GUIDANCE COUNSELLING: BUILDING ON PRACTICE, SHAPING THE FUTURE



A warm welcome to Guidance Counsellors, Whole-School Guidance Teams and School Leaders to this OCTOBER edition of the Oide Guidance Newsletter.

OIDE GUIDANCE TEAM UPDATES

We are delighted to welcome Joanne Parry to her new role as Senior Leader, Inclusive Education & Guidance, leading the Oide Guidance Team in 2026/27. Niamh Uí Thuama continues as Professional Learning Leader while Carmel Briody O'Keefe, Carleen Egan and Rachel McGarrigle join the team as Professional Learning Leaders. We also extend our best wishes to Sinéad Duffy as she takes up her new role as Senior Leader with the Oide Geography/Climate Action and Sustainable Development Team.



Joanne Parry
Senior Leader



Niamh Uí Thuama
Professional Learning Leader



Carmel Briody O'Keefe
Professional Learning Leader



Carleen Egan
Professional Learning Leader



Rachel McGarrigle
Professional Learning Leader

Now that the academic year is underway, we are delighted to share the latest resources and frameworks designed to support your vital work in supporting students.

· New Circular: 0072/2026 Guidance in Post-Primary Schools.

· Upcoming Professional Learning Experience: Guidance Counselling at Senior Cycle.

· In-School Support: Avail of tailored assistance through the Oide School Support portal.

· Publication of the Summary Report arising from the National Consultation on Post-Primary Guidance and the Standards and Qualifications in Guidance Counsellor Education and Training (SQGCET).

· Oide Resources: To support Whole-school, Junior Cycle, and Transition Year planning.

· Core Terminology Guide: A refresher on key language and terminology in guidance practice.

Oide

Guidance PLE (Professional Learning Experience) 2026/27



Full Day, Face-to-Face Professional Learning for Guidance Counsellors 2026/27 School Closure (Cluster) Days

The Oide Guidance Team is very much looking forward to meeting Guidance Counsellors for our Guidance PLE 2026/27.
This timely PLE will **support guidance counsellors** to **explore the opportunities and challenges arising from Senior Cycle Redevelopment** and consider the implications for **guidance practice**.



Participants will:

- **examine key developments** in Senior Cycle Redevelopment from **a guidance perspective.**
- **explore the implications** for guidance programmes and practice.
- consider **student pathways and programmes, subject choice and progression routes**, and the role of guidance in supporting informed decision-making.
- reflect on the role of guidance in supporting **student agency**, through the **lens of assessment in Senior Cycle and in guidance**.
- **share practice** and **identify strategies** to support students in navigating a changing educational landscape.

The day will provide opportunities for **professional dialogue**, **collaboration**, and **practical reflection** on how best to support students in their social/personal, educational and career choices.



This **in-person** PLE will be facilitated by the Oide Guidance Team, in **English** and **as Gaeilge**. Guidance counsellors will be provided with a **Professional Learning Log** to support their professional learning on the day. The **Oide Guidance website** will host further useful **resources** for guidance counsellors to facilitate them in their guidance practice.

Schools will have received information from **Oide** regarding the **Subject Clusters** and Teacher Professional Learning Experiences for 2026/27. We encourage guidance counsellors to **check that they are registered** to attend the **Guidance Cluster Day**. We look forward to working with you!

NEED SUPPORT WITH GUIDANCE IN YOUR SCHOOL?

The Oide Guidance Team can provide school support tailored to the needs and context of your school.

Step 1

Consult with your Principal regarding In-school support for Guidance.

Step 2

Identify the priority needs of your school with your Whole-School Guidance Team.

Step 3

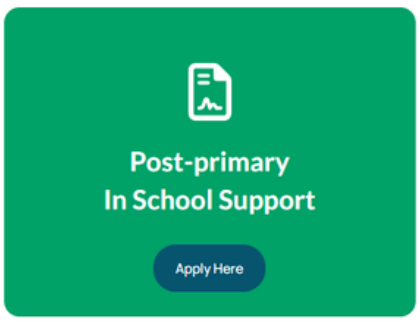
Your Principal can then submit a request through the Oide DMS School Support portal.

Step 4

The school will be contacted to discuss the appropriate next steps.

OIDE SCHOOL SUPPORT

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS TO IDENTIFY PRIORITIES, EXPLORE PRACTICE AND PLAN NEXT STEPS.

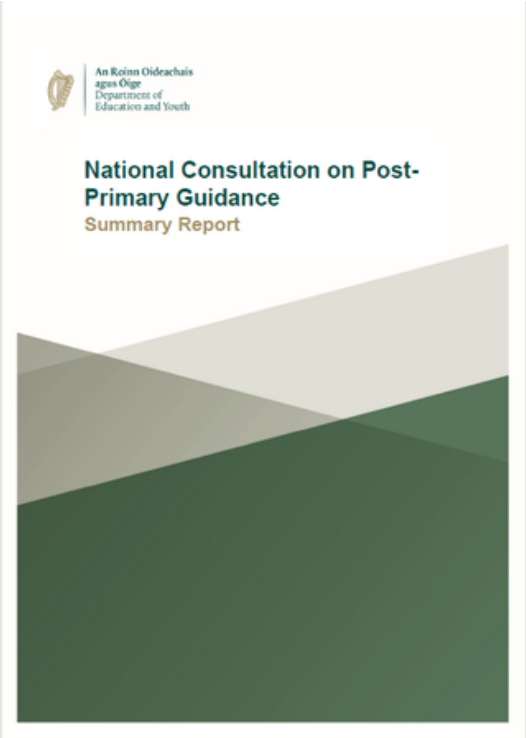


NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON POST-PRIMARY GUIDANCE SUMMARY REPORT

In May 2026, the Department of Education and Youth published the Summary Report arising from the National Consultation on Post-Primary Guidance, following extensive engagement with stakeholders across the education community.

Click on image to access the report, or scan the QR code below

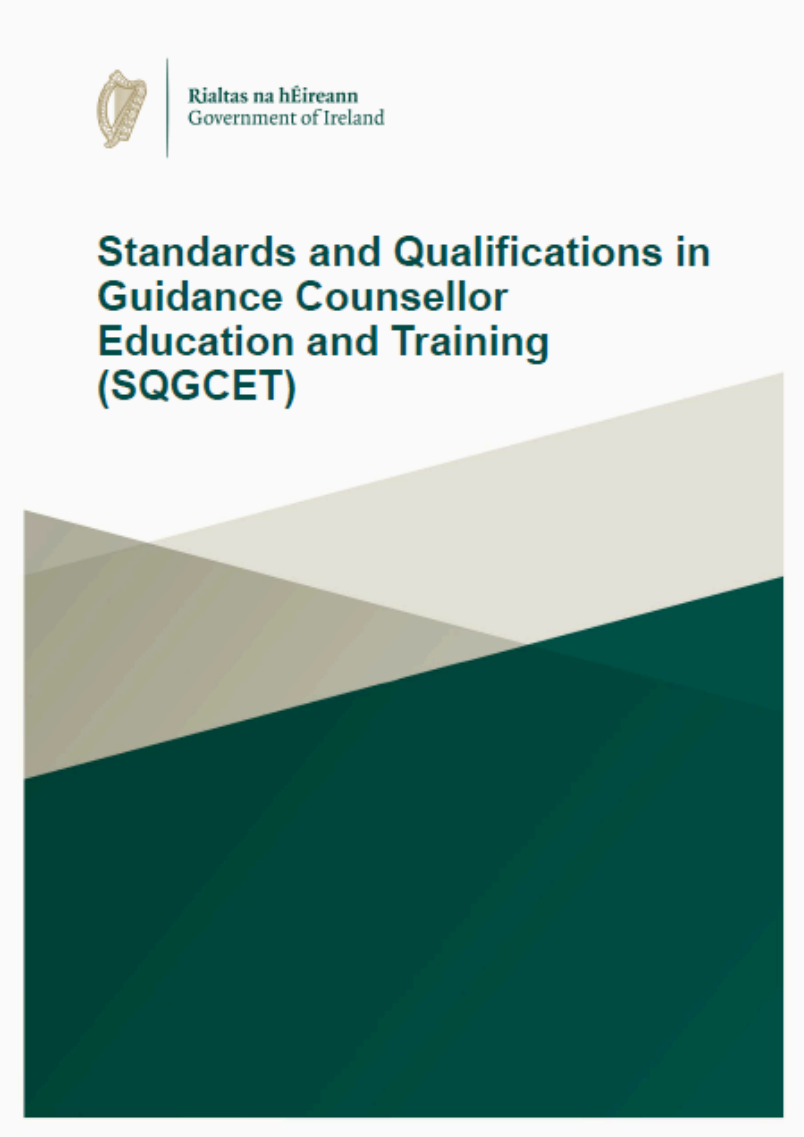
https://tinyurl.com/4yxs98fa



The consultation invited perspectives from students, parents, guidance counsellors, school staff and school leaders through written submissions, surveys and stakeholder engagement. The report reflects the ongoing commitment of the Guidance Unit within the Department of Education and Youth to the continued development of post-primary guidance and the importance of stakeholder perspectives in informing future guidance policy and practice across Irish schools.

To access the full Summary Report, please click on the image above; alternatively use the QR code or TinyURL provided.

STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS IN GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING (SQGCET)



Click on the image above to access the report, or scan the QR code below.

https://tinyurl.com/2a3cy3tk

The recent publication of the Standards and Qualifications in Guidance Counsellor Education and Training (SQGCET) represents an important development for the guidance counselling profession in Ireland. The document outlines nationally agreed standards, competencies and qualification requirements for guidance counsellors working across guidance services under the remit of the Department of Education and Youth and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The publication reflects an ongoing commitment to high-quality, ethical and professionally informed guidance practice across the lifelong guidance landscape, while recognising the evolving and increasingly complex role of guidance counsellors in contemporary educational settings.

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LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY IN GUIDANCE

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 72/2026, p.10)

GUIDANCE COUNSELLING

"A specialised, developmental and ethically-grounded service provided by a qualified guidance counsellor only… Whenever a guidance counsellor is working with an individual/group/class, they engage in guidance counselling... to support an individual with educational / career / social and personal development."
(DEY Circular 72/2026, p.10)

"GUIDANCE COUNSELLING IN RELATION TO PERSONAL/SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS involves the utilisation of guidance-counselling skills to support a student with personal/social developmental issues."
(DEY Circular 72/2026, p.10)

WHOLE-SCHOOL GUIDANCE

"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

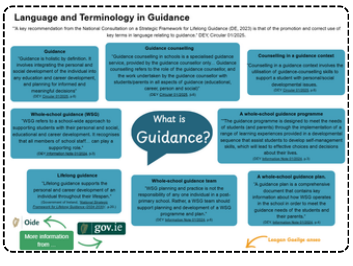
"Lifelong guidance supports the personal and career development of an individual throughout their lifespan."
(Government of Ireland, 'National Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance (2024-2030)', p.20

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)

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)



This 'Language and Terminology in Guidance' Poster can be found under Oide Guidance Resources

Oide
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Supporting the Professional Learning of School Leaders and Teachers

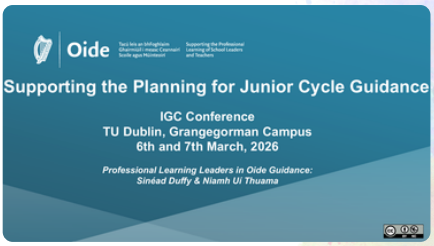
***Oide Guidance** has facilitated a number of **Professional Learning Experiences (PLEs)** over the last year, and developed **resources** to support your own **Guidance planning**. These are available on the Oide Guidance website, and are signposted here.*

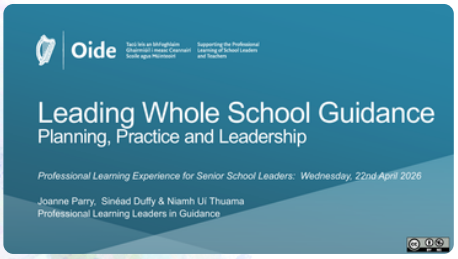
JUNIOR CYCLE GUIDANCE

From a workshop facilitated at the IGC Conference in March, supports for guidance counsellors in linking policy and research to practice, and ideas for JC guidance planning. Slides and Padlet of resources.

WHOLE-SCHOOL GUIDANCE FOR SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERS

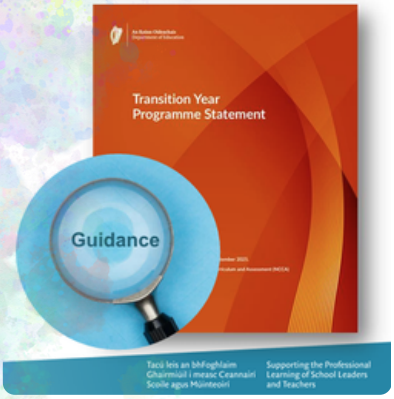
PLE for Senior Leaders regarding whole-school guidance, but also a useful reference point for guidance counsellors and whole-school guidance teams. Recorded PLE, slides and Padlet





Supports for Guidance Planning

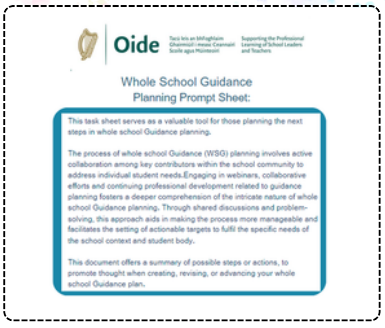






JUNIOR CYCLE WHOLE-SCHOOL GUIDANCE SAMPLE SURVEYS

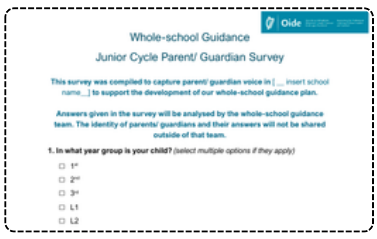
A sample survey for Junior Cycle students and a sample survey for parents/ guardians may help as a reference point for Whole-school Guidance planning.



GUIDANCE IN TRANSITION YEAR

Recorded PLE, with accompanying slides, padlet and resources





WHOLE-SCHOOL GUIDANCE (WSG) PLANNING

Resources on the *Oide Guidance* Whole-school Guidance Padlet, such as the 'WSG Planning Prompt Sheet' and a WSG Template for Subject Departments.

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Supporting the Professional Learning of School Leaders and Teachers

NEART

Neart, the national programme of mental health supports and resources for post-primary schools, is a collaboration between Jigsaw – The National Centre for Youth Mental Health – and the Department of Education and Youth / NEPS. Neart offers a comprehensive suite of free evidence-based mental health promotion materials, developed by teachers, occupational therapists and educational psychologists and informed by young people, ideal to complement the work that Guidance Counsellors do every day to support student wellbeing. These include:

- Webinars for school staff providing practical, actionable steps to promote student wellbeing within your role. Topics include supporting students to manage anxiety, low mood and self-harm, school reluctance and avoidance, supporting neurodivergent students and many more. Upcoming webinars can be booked on the Neart website and recordings of past webinars are available here.
- In-person regional conferences for Student Support Team members. Full-day in-person conference for SST members to support effective implementation of mental health promotion and wellbeing practices in their work. Work with Jigsaw and NEPS staff to translate theory to practice, through interactive workshops on Trauma-Informed Practice in Schools, Engaging Student Voice and Supporting Students to Manage Anxiety. Register on LearnUpon as soon as possible to avoid disappointment (further details below):
  - Thursday, 5 November 2026, Dublin (Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Naas Road);
  - Thursday, 28 January 2027, Athlone (Radisson Blu Hotel).
- Teacher-led classroom-based programmes for students. Join schools all over Ireland currently facilitating Neart wellbeing programmes with students. We provide everything you need to implement practical, evidence-informed and engaging programmes directly to students; from teacher manuals and PowerPoint slides to student worksheets and certificates. We have several 4-week programmes, plus longer micromodules for TY students. All are available for free once you register for Neart on our LearnUpon platform (further details below). Our Peer Education Programme is also available on ncca.ie here. Neart Padlet (digital resource library) The Neart Padlet is freely available to all school staff, and contains multi-media resources from trusted sources curated by Jigsaw and NEPS on key wellbeing topics. Access the Neart Padlet here.

To access these resources and more, please register here. Once registered, you will be invited to the LearnUpon eLearning platform, where you can access resources and register for upcoming events. You will also receive the monthly Neart newsletter with information on upcoming events and newly released resources. We look forward to working with you to promote student wellbeing.

Neart

upporting mental health in post-primary schools

IGSAW

An Roinn Oideachais agus Óige
Department of Education and Youth

COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK 2026

Seachtain Feasachta Coláiste
College Awareness Week

We are delighted to share that College Awareness Week (CAW) will take place again this year from 23–29 November 2026.
CAW encourages all learners—but particularly those who are under-represented in higher education—to explore the many education and career pathways available to them. The campaign provides a valuable opportunity to support young people in exploring their future options.

If your school would like to take part this year, please contact caw@tcd.ie for further information and to enquire about CAW merchandise. You can also visit collegeaware.ie to download CAW logos and resources and browse useful links for you and the learners you support.

TAP
Cláir Rochtana Choláiste na Tríonóide
Trinity Access Programmes

https://collegeaware.ie/

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GUIDANCE COUNSELLING: BUILDING ON PRACTICE, SHAPING THE FUTURE

The **Oide Guidance website** has a growing repository of resources and supports. Keep an eye on the website for updates throughout the year.

We would welcome your **ideas for future Oide Guidance Newsletters**. Scan the QR code here and fill in a short form to share any ideas with us.

Oide Guidance Newsletter/ Nuachtlitir Treorach Oide

Follow *Oide* on X: ***@OidePostPrimary***

As guidance counsellors and school communities settle into this academic year, we encourage you to acknowledge all that you do to support students and nurture their development. Through ongoing professional learning, reflection on practice, engagement with emerging developments and the use of available resources, we continue to shape the future of guidance for our students.

We cannot pour from an empty cup, as this work requires time, emotional labour and deep professional care. We encourage guidance counsellors to rest, reflect and attend to their own wellbeing, recognising that sustained, high-quality guidance practice depends on the wellbeing of those who provide it.

We hope this issue has offered practical insights, reassurance, and renewed energy to support informed guidance practice and planning in your school context. We look forward to continuing to work alongside you throughout the year ahead.

Oide Inclusive Education and Guidance Team,

Joanne, Niamh, Rachel, Carleen & Carmel

