



**Oide**

Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim  
Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí  
Scoile agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional  
Learning of School Leaders  
and Teachers

# Webinar : Leaving Certificate Applied Social Education and Senior Cycle SPHE



# Learning Intentions:

Develop our understanding of the updates and changes in Leaving Certificate Applied Social Education

Overview of Senior Cycle SPHE Specification and Assessment

Explore resources and stimulus materials to support learning and teaching.



# Programme Statement






## 5<sup>th</sup> Year LCA

Interactive LCA Programme Overview Year 1 September 2025					
LCA Year 1					
Course (Subject)		Session 1 Sept-Jan	Session 2 Feb-June	Session 3 Sept-Jan	Session 4 Feb-June
Vocational Preparation	VOCATIONAL PREPARATION & GUIDANCE	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Enterprise	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice
		2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice
		Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	2 Credits Guidance
ENGLISH & COMMUNICATIONS +12 credit exam		1 Credit Personal & Social Communication	1 Credit Communication & The Digital World	1 Credit Communication in Media	1 Credit Express Yourself
Vocational Education	MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS +10 credit exam	1 Credit Mathematics & Planning	1 Credit Mathematics & The World Around Me	1 Credit Mathematics & Life Skills	1 Credit Mathematics & Work
	VOCATIONAL SPECIALISMS Choose 2 specialisms from 11 options One 12 credit exam per specialism	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice
		1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice
INTRODUCTION TO ICT		Ongoing	2 Credits Intro to Computer & Word Processing	Ongoing	2 Credits Intro to Other Software & Apps
General Education	ARTS EDUCATION Drama, Dance, Visual Arts, Music	Ongoing	2 Credits Choice	Ongoing	2 Credits Choice
		10 Credits General Education Task			
	LANGUAGES One 6 credit exam per language	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice
SOCIAL EDUCATION		2 Credits My Community	2 Credits Contemporary Issues 1 SOC SPHE	2 Credits Contemporary Issues 2	2 Credits Taking Charge SOC SPHE
LEISURE & RECREATION Including PE		Ongoing	2 Credits Choice	Ongoing	2 Credits Choice
ELECTIVES		2 Credits Choice	2 Credits Choice	2 Credits Choice	2 Credits Choice
		4 Credits Personal Reflection Task Part 1		6 Credits Personal Reflection Task Part 2	

**Social Education and SPHE** As of September 2025, students entering year one of the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme will be required to study the new Senior Cycle Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum specification. For students following the LCA programme, this specification will replace Social Education modules 1 and 4.

**NCCA Addendum** LCA students may access Leaving Certificate (Established (LCF) Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages

Click here for more details



## 6<sup>th</sup> Year LCA


LCA Curriculum Framework & Credits Allocation					
LCA Year 1					
Course (Subject)		Session 1 Sept-Jan	Session 2 Feb-June	Session 3 Sept-Jan	Session 4 Feb-June
Vocational Preparation	VOCATIONAL PREPARATION & GUIDANCE	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Enterprise	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice
		2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice	2 Credits Module Choice
		Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	2 Credits Guidance
ENGLISH & COMMUNICATIONS +12 credit exam		1 Credit Personal & Social Communication	1 Credit Communication & The Digital World	1 Credit Communication in Media	1 Credit Express Yourself
Vocational Education	MATHEMATICAL APPLICATIONS +10 credit exam	1 Credit Mathematics & Planning	1 Credit Mathematics & The World Around Me	1 Credit Mathematics & Life Skills	1 Credit Mathematics & Work
	VOCATIONAL SPECIALISMS Choose 2 specialisms from 11 options One 12 credit exam per specialism	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice
		1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice
INTRODUCTION TO ICT		Ongoing	2 Credits Intro to Computer & Word Processing	Ongoing	2 Credits Intro to Other Software & Apps
General Education	ARTS EDUCATION Drama, Dance, Visual Arts, Music	Ongoing	2 Credits Choice	Ongoing	2 Credits Choice
		10 Credits General Education Task			
	LANGUAGES One 6 credit exam per language	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice	1 Credit Choice
SOCIAL EDUCATION +10 credit exam		1 Credit My Community	1 Credit Contemporary Issues 1 Social & Health Education 1	1 Credit Contemporary Issues 2	1 Credit Taking Charge Social & Health Education 2
LEISURE & RECREATION Including PE		Ongoing	2 Credits Choice	Ongoing	2 Credits Choice
ELECTIVES		2 Credits Choice	2 Credits Choice	2 Credits Choice	2 Credits Choice
		4 Credits Personal Reflection Task Part 1		6 Credits Personal Reflection Task Part 2	

**VOCATIONAL SPECIALISMS** The two vocational specialisms: Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Active Leisure Studies are follow-on courses and may only commence once the introductory courses: Introduction to ICT and Leisure & Recreation, have been completed.

**NCCA Addendum** LCA students may access Leaving Certificate (Established (LCF) Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages

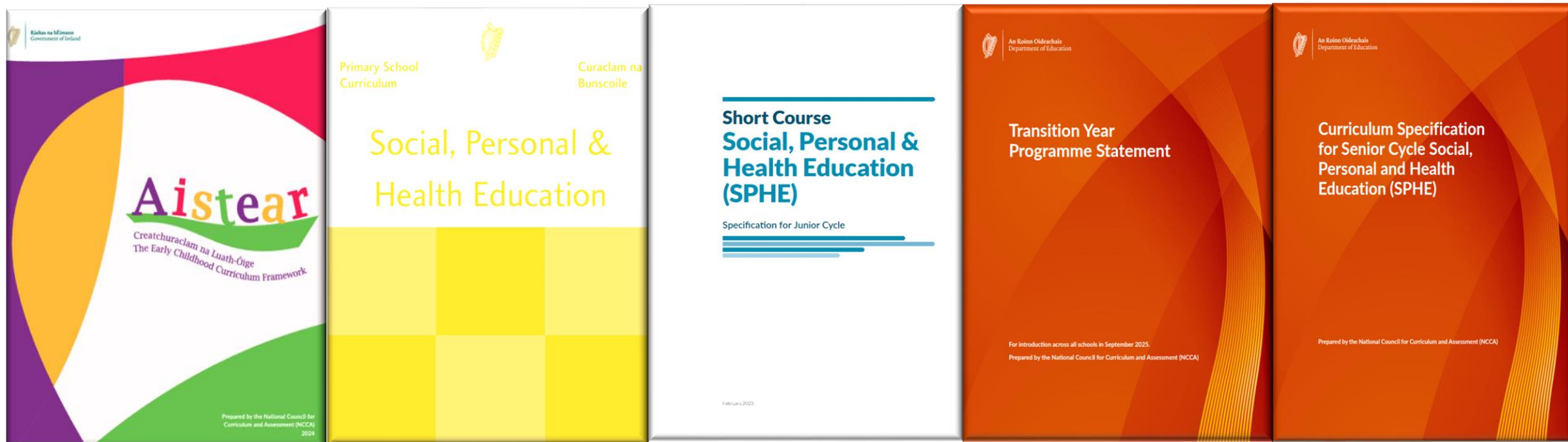
More details: [curriculumonline.ie/Senior-Cycle/LCA](https://curriculumonline.ie/Senior-Cycle/LCA)

A module is of 30 hours duration



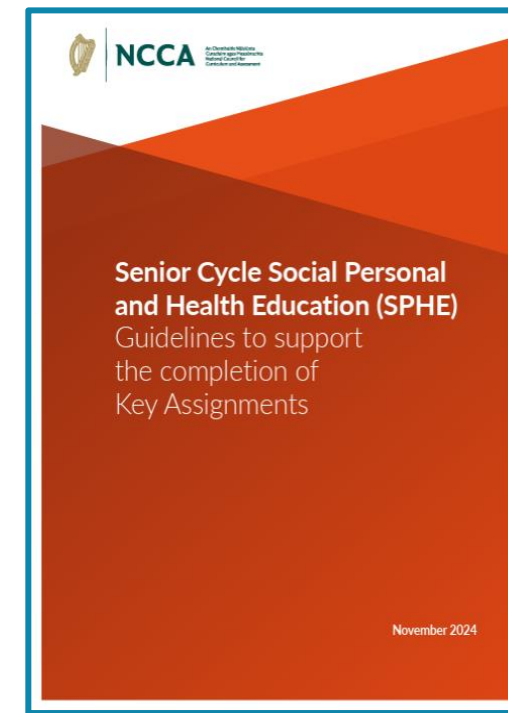
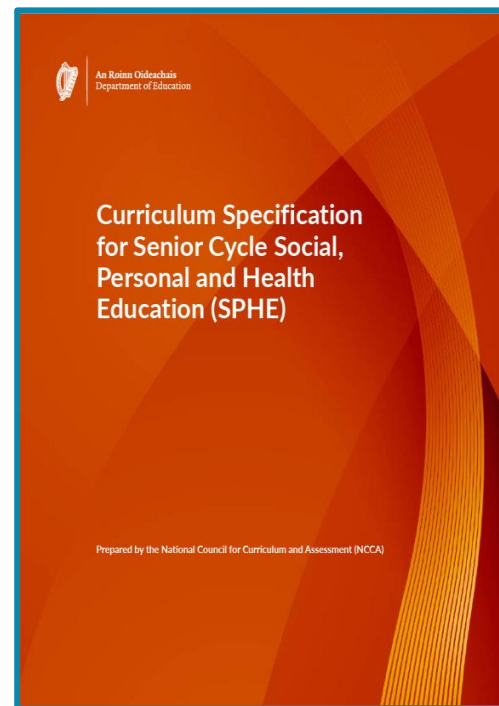
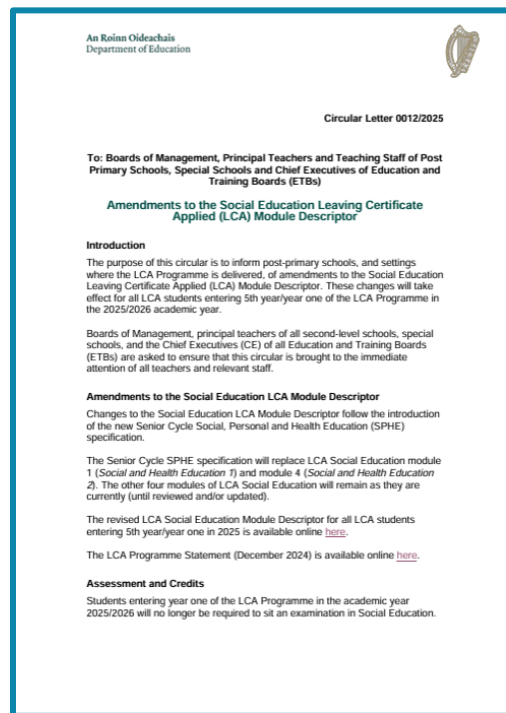


# Continuum of Education - SPHE





# Resources and Documents

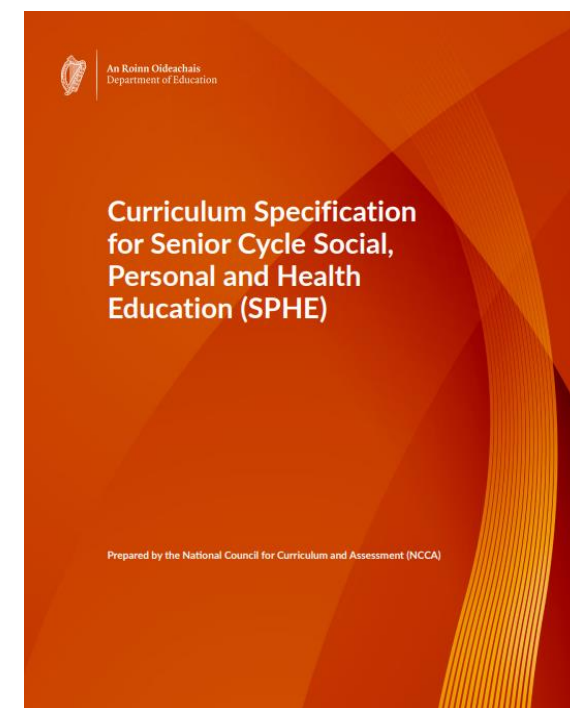
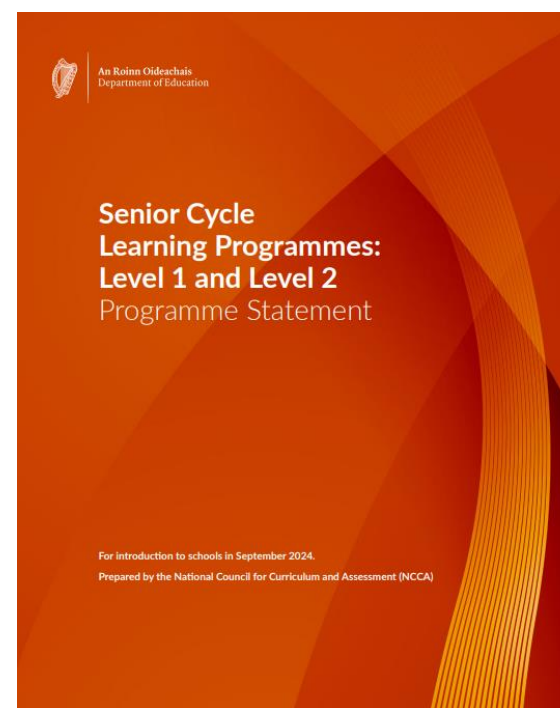
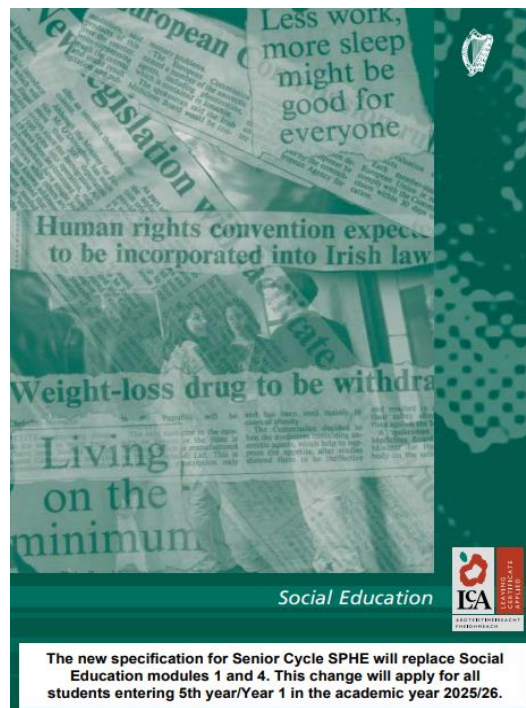
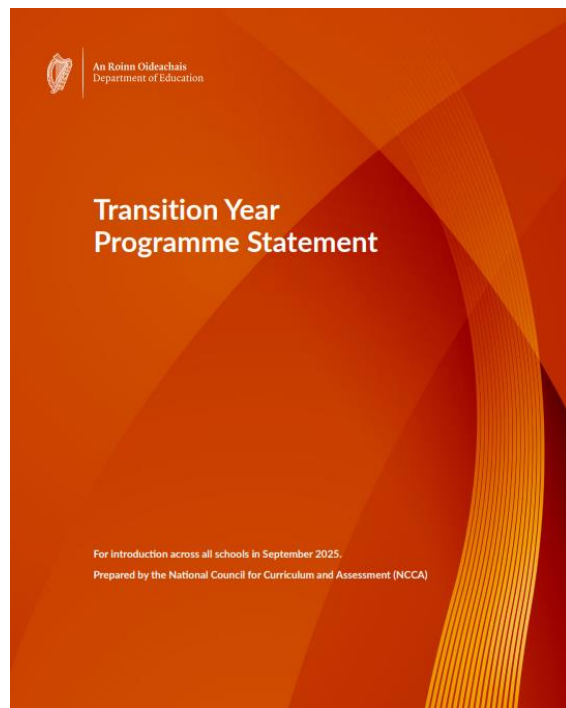






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# Child Safeguarding: Curricular Provision





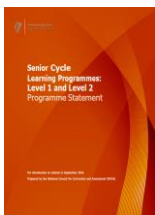
# Child Safeguarding: Curricular Provision



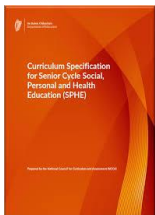
TY: 'SPHE should be [timetabled] once per week, not exceeding one hour per class' as of September 2025.' (*TY Programme Statement p.18*)



LCA: 'The Senior Cycle SPHE specification will replace LCA Social Education module 1 and 4 ... for all LCA students entering 5th year/year one of the LCA Programme in the 2025/2026 academic year.' (*Circular 12/2025*)



SC L1/L2LP: 'Learning in SPHE is provided through the module on Personal Care and the Senior Cycle SPHE specification' as of September 2025. (*SC L1/L2LP Programme Statement p.12*)

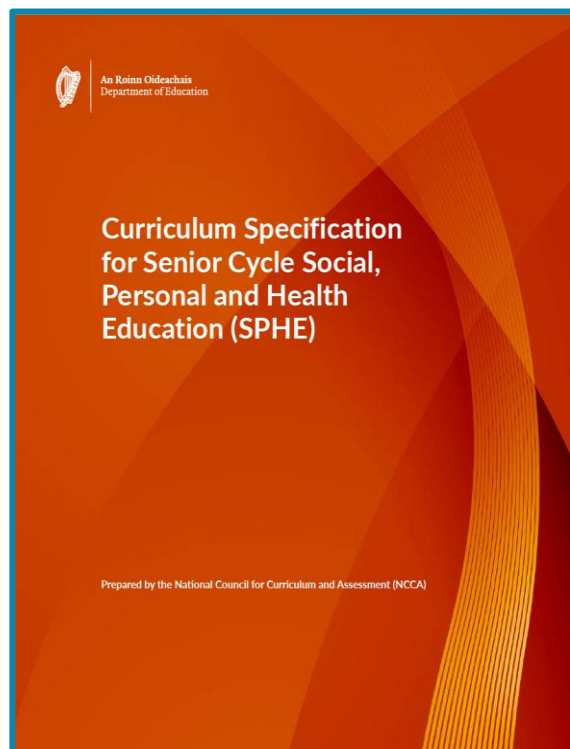


'Schools have until September 2027 to introduce the Senior Cycle SPHE specification for all other students entering fifth year.' (*Circular 12/2025*)





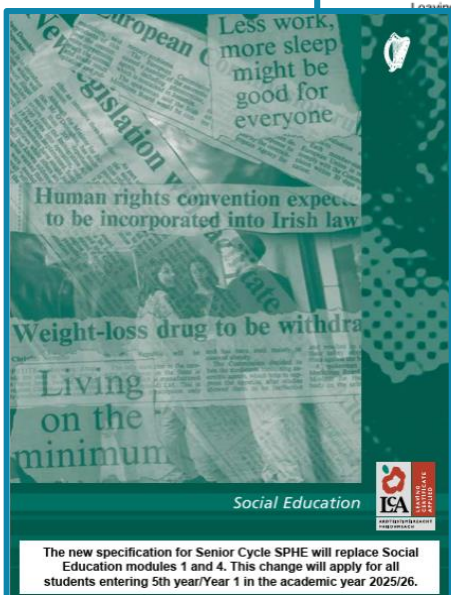
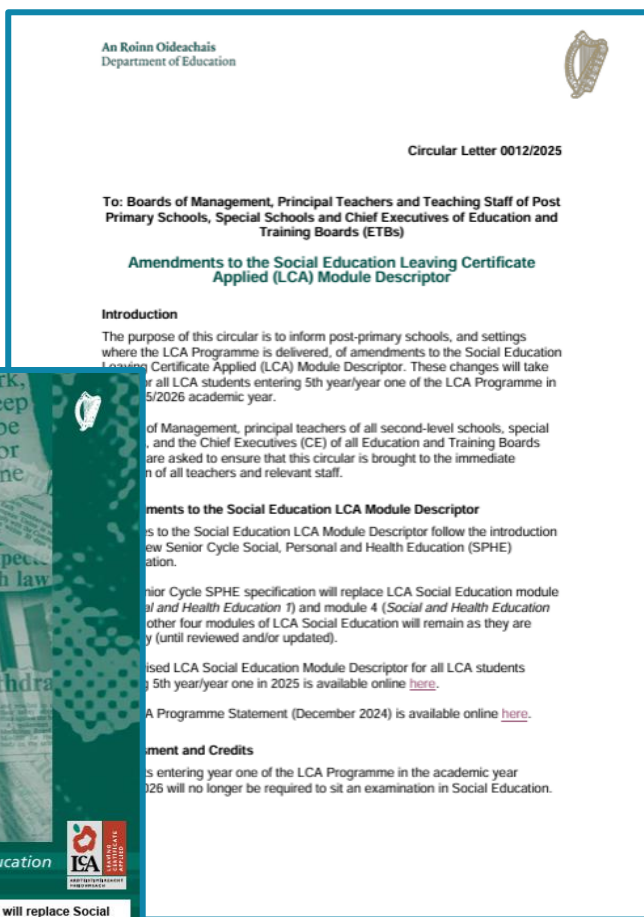
# Senior Cycle SPHE Specification



- Senior Cycle SPHE Specification (2024)
- 60 hours over 2 years
- Mandatory for LCA (Year 1) from Sept 2025
- Mandatory for all students from Sept 2027



# Circular Letter 0012/2025



The new specification for Senior Cycle SPHE will replace Social Education modules 1 and 4. This change will apply for all students entering 5th year/Year 1 in the academic year 2025/26.

The modules should be covered in the following sequence.

Year 1	Session 1	Session 2
	Senior Cycle SPHE	
	My Community	Contemporary Issues 1
Year 2	Session 3	Session 4
	Senior Cycle SPHE	
	Contemporary Issues 2	Taking Charge

The Senior Cycle SPHE specification is designed for a minimum of 60 hours of class contact time over the final two years of senior cycle education. LCA Programmes must include Senior Cycle SPHE across all four sessions. The other four modules of Social Education should be completed, one in each session, in the sequence indicated above.



# Curriculum Structure: SC SPHE in LCA

Senior Cycle SPHE integrated  
into LCA Social Education

SC SPHE replaces content of  
Module 1: Social and Health  
Education 1 (Year 1)  
and  
Module 4: Social and Health  
Education 2 (Year 2)

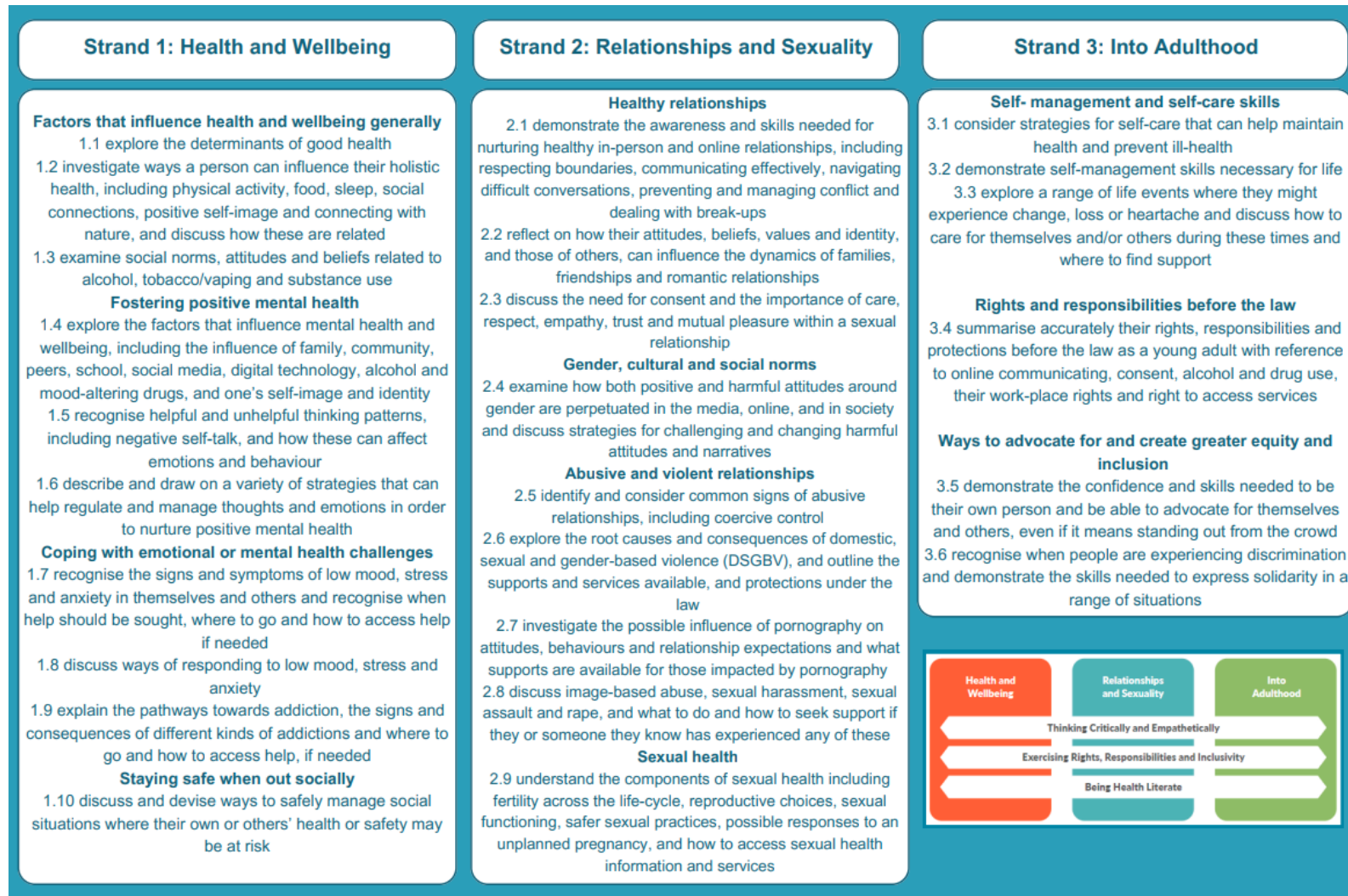
3 Strands:  
Health & Wellbeing  
Relationships & Sexuality  
Into Adulthood



# Senior Cycle SPHE Strands of Study



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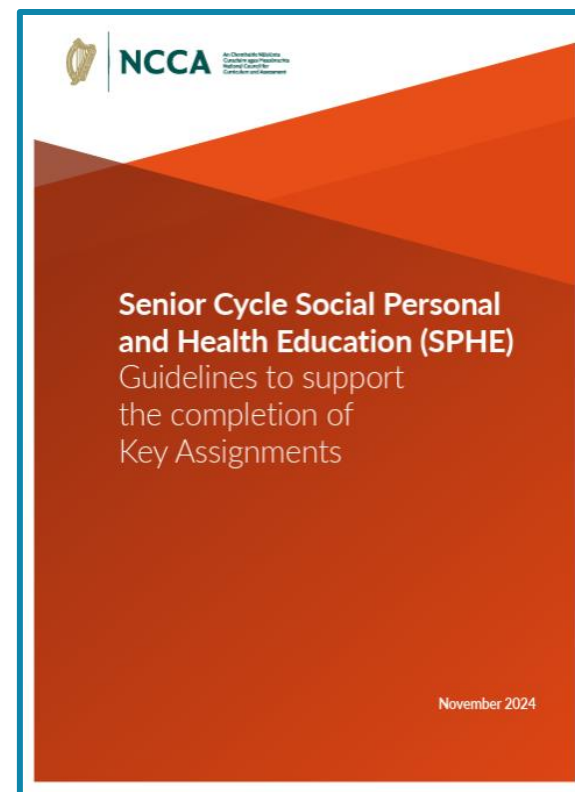


# Assessment Changes

**No final exam** for Social Education (for students entering LCA from 2025)

Assessment of SC SPHE via Key Assignments & Attendance

Assessment of remaining Social Education modules via Key Assignments & Attendance



The new specification for Senior Cycle SPHE will replace Social Education modules 1 and 4. This change will apply for all students entering 5th year/Year 1 in the academic year 2025/26.



# Guidelines to Support the Completion of Key Assignments



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PLB 10

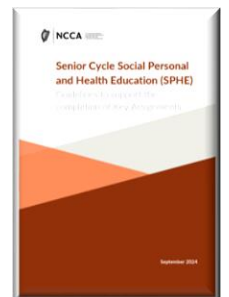
Leaving Certificate  
Established (LCE)  
Leaving Certificate Applied  
(LCA)

Record of Key Assignments  
must be kept

Credits are recorded for  
certification for students  
following the LCA programme

Minimum of 8 Key  
Assignments across two  
years of SPHE

3 Key Assignments linked to Strand 1  
3 Key Assignments linked to Strand 2  
2 Key Assignments linked to Strand 3



(DE, 2024)



# Active Methodologies and Strategies

Exit-slip

CNQ

Walking Quiz

Exit Strategy

Gratitude Circle

Question Car Park

Research Materials

Think-Pair-Share

Check-in

Ice-breaker

Scenarios

Group-work

Brainstorming

Sorting Activity

Reflective Activities

Visual Thinking Strategy



# Resources and Supports

## NCCA Senior Cycle SPHE Toolkit



Preparing to teach



Teaching SPHE



Resources for  
teaching and learning  
SPHE/RSE



# Credit Allocation Changes (Year 1: 2025/26)

	Year 1		Year 2	
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
SPHE 1 (Key Assignments)	2 credits			
My Community (Key Assignments)	2 credits			
Contemporary Issues 1 (Key Assignment)		2 credits		
SPHE 2 (Key Assignments)			2 credits	
Contemporary Issues 2 (Key Assignments)			2 credits	
Taking Charge (Key Assignments)				2 credits
Contemporary Issue Task (Student Task)			14 credits	
Social Education Final Examination	Discontinued			



# Professional Learning Events

## ***Search for SCSPHE***

To see available dates and venues

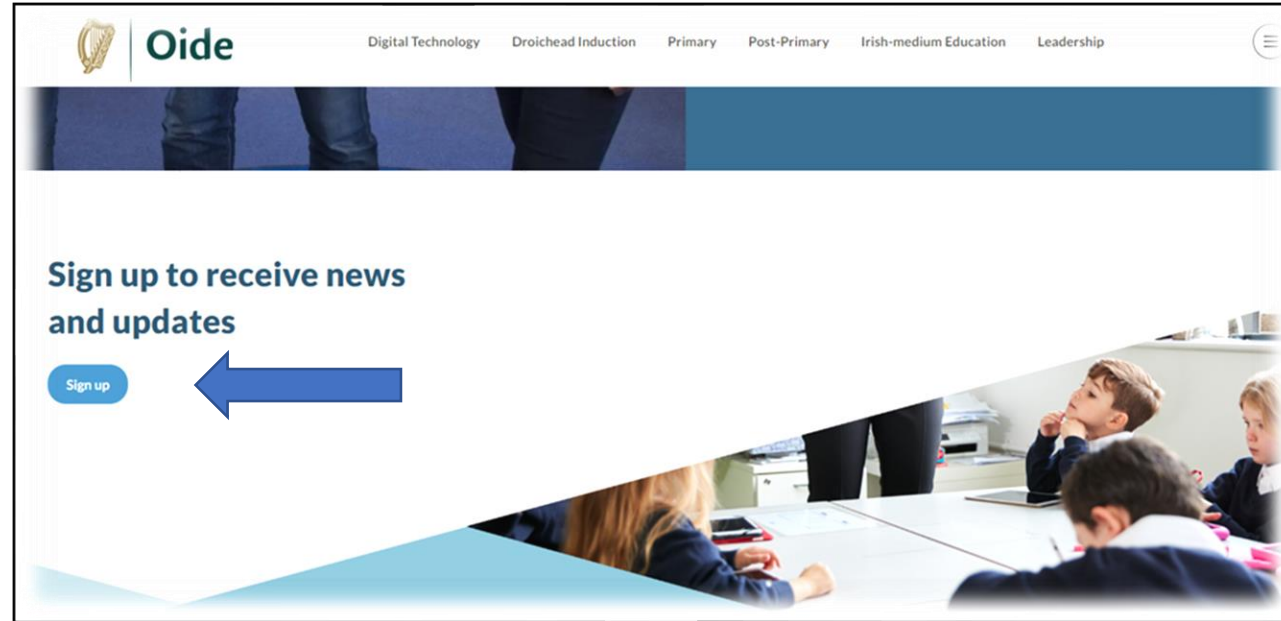


Social Education modules: My Community,  
Contemporary Issues 1, Contemporary Issues 2  
and Taking Charge Online Event 11th of  
November 2025





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- [www.oide.ie](http://www.oide.ie)
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- Complete form and click on Post-Primary