



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige
Department of Education
and Youth

Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Schools Information Note

November 2025 Issue 13



Senior Cycle Redevelopment Information and Updates

Introduction

This is the thirteenth edition in a series of Department of Education and Youth Senior Cycle Redevelopment information notes. These notes provide updates to school communities on the roll-out of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme. The information note is available on gov.ie/seniorcycle and schools are welcome to provide links from their websites and other digital presences to it.

Main updates

Coursework Rules and Procedures 2025/26 – now available. Click [here](#) for more information.

Have your say on curriculum development.

Find open consultations as part of Senior Cycle Redevelopment [here](#).

Further reading

Press release: Ministers McEntee and Moynihan celebrate new Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes at Senior Cycle for students with special educational needs. Read [here](#).



Have Your Say!

Consultations open.

Tranche 3 Leaving Certificate Computer Science

Leaving Certificate Computer Science will be introduced in schools from September 2027. The public consultation on the draft specification is open until 26 November 2025. Click [here](#).

Tranche 3 Design and Communication Graphics

Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics will be introduced in schools from September 2027. The public consultation on the draft specification is open until 23 January 2026. Click [here](#).

Elective modules for the Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes

The NCCA are consulting on the remaining elective modules that will form part of the complete suite of curriculum areas and elective modules for the Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes. Click [here](#).

Level 1

- Music
- Area of special interest
- Cookery
- Being Part of the Community

Level 2:

- Music
- Area of special interest
- The Past in my Place
- Design and Do
- IT Skills
- Preparation for Life after School



Coursework rules and procedures

The State Examinations Commission has published Coursework Rules and Procedures 2025/2026. These are instructions for post-primary schools and other entities recognised to hold examinations, on the delivery of coursework as part of the 2026 State examinations.

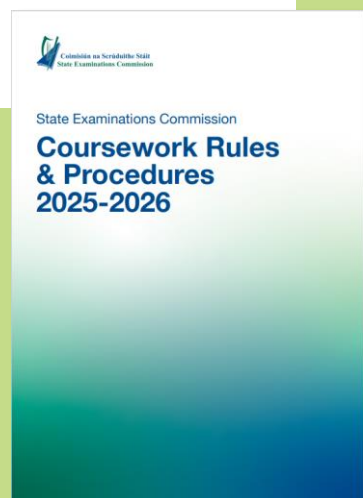
The document consolidates all previous SEC instructions regarding coursework, and sets out the process for the completion, authentication and submission of valid coursework for assessment in the State examinations.

The audiences for these rules and procedures are school management authorities – principals, deputy principals, and those in corresponding positions and teachers in post-primary schools and other entities recognised by the SEC to hold the certificate examinations. In addition, a short guide on these rules for candidates will be published shortly.

The Coursework Rules and Procedures will be updated and published annually.

The rules and procedures have been redeveloped in close collaboration with the Department of Education and Youth and underwent consultation with key stakeholders prior to publication.

You can access the Coursework Rules and Procedures [here](#). Queries in relation to this document can be sent to coursework@examinations.ie.



New circulars

Circular 0065/2025 Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes

The purpose of this circular is to inform post-primary schools, special schools and other educational settings of curriculum and assessment related developments at Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes. Read [here](#).

Circular 0071/2025 Prescribed Material for the Irish Examination

This circular sets out the prescribed material for Leaving Certificate Irish examination in June 2027. Read [here](#).

Plan for Return to pre-Covid-19 Arrangements for State Examinations – issued to schools

An information note setting out the position in relation to examination and assessment adjustments for 2027 and beyond, as well as the plan for the application of a post-marking adjustment in 2026, was circulated to schools by email earlier this month.



Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes Celebration Event

The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme Management Office recently hosted a celebration event in respect of Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes at Senior Cycle. Students from schools involved in the development and introduction of the programmes gathered at the National Gallery of Ireland, along with their teachers and SNAs. Students partook in art workshops, linking with the recently published Visual Art module, available at both levels. Thanks to all those who attended.



Transition Year – moving towards realising universal access

The ambition of making access to Transition Year available to all students is reflected in the Programme for Government, which commits to expanding the Transition Year programme and addressing the barriers that might prevent students from taking part.

The Education Plan 2025 includes several concrete commitments to promote the further expansion of TY participation working towards all students in all schools having the option to participate and identifying the barriers that might prevent take-up by students.

As set out in the Education Plan, the Department will work with students to understand their motivations and preferences when choosing whether to participate in Transition Year or to progress directly to fifth year, and will work with schools to ensure greater transparency regarding how Transition Year places are allocated at school level.

The Department has been working to make universal access a reality by assessing the level of unmet demand for access to Transition Year, identifying the causes, and determining how we can help schools close those gaps.

Have your say!

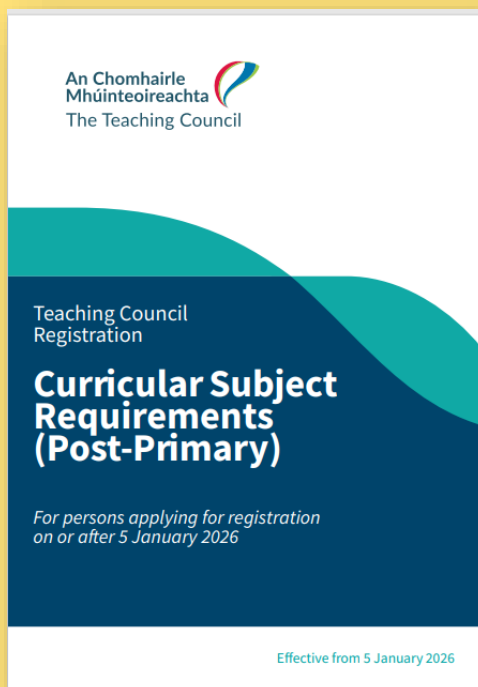
Want to share your thoughts on access to Transition Year, and how it applies to your school context? Would you be interested in participating in a consultation on Transition Year in early 2026? Please e-mail scr_info@education.gov.ie with the subject line “Realising universal access”.

Subject registration criteria for new subjects Climate Action and Sustainable Development, and Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

The Teaching Council have announced the addition of two new subjects - Climate Action and Sustainable Development, and Drama, Film and Theatre Studies - to the **Curricular Subject Requirements (Post-primary)**, and clarifications to certain existing subjects, which will come into effect for persons applying for registration on or after **5 January 2026**.

In addition to the new subjects, clarifications have also been made to the requirements for the subjects of Physical Education, Politics & Society, Music, and Art.

You can read the requirements [here](#).



Updates from Oide

Senior Cycle Redevelopment Oide supports 2025/2026

Programme Support



All teaching staff PLE school closure day. Focus on:

- promoting student engagement
- integrating key competencies into teaching practice
- effectively managing AACs

Transition Year



- 2 dedicated PLE days for coordinators plus 1 core team member
- Elective online supports
- Focus on implementing the new TY Programme Statement

Leadership



In-person PLEs and webinars for school leaders

Areas of focus:

- Curriculum & Planning
- Leading SC L1LP & L2LP
- Supporting SCR specifications & programmes
- SSE - Step by Step

Senior Cycle L1LP & L2LP



- Post-primary & special school cluster events (in-person & online PLEs)
- Special school in-person PLEs as part of school closure day
- Supplementary in-school support & webinars
- Areas of focus: Senior Cycle Level 1 & 2 Curriculum Areas and Modules

Tranche 1&2 Cluster PLEs



- School cluster events
- All tranche 1 & 2 subjects will be in-person PLEs
- Tranche 1 & 2 PLEs focus on an interrogation and implementation of the new specifications

Second teaching subject PLEs



In Spring 2026 subject teams will offer second teaching subject PLEs for teachers who teach a second tranche 1 or tranche 2 subject

Elective supports



Our SCR tranche 1 & 2 subject teams will offer a range of elective supports, including collaboratives, practical workshops and webinars. Keep an eye on oide.ie and follow Oide on X @oide_ireland for further details

Sample paper webinar



Live interactive webinar for Tranche 2 subjects focusing on SEC sample papers (post-publication)

Planned for Spring 2026

Athfhorbairt na Sraithe Sinsearaí Tacaíochtaí Oide 2025/2026

Tacaíocht do Chláir



EFG ar lá dúnta scoile do gach ball foirne. Dirithe ar:

- rannpháirtíocht scoláirí a chur chun cinn
- phríomhinníúlachtaí a chomhtháthú i geleachtas teagaisc
- CMBanna a bhainistiú go héifeachtach

An Idirbhliain



- 2 lá EFG dirithe ar chomhordaitheoirí agus ar bhall amháin atá mar chuid de chroí-fhoireann na hidirbhliana
- Tacaíochtaí roghnacha ar líne
- Fócas ar Réiteas an Chláir Idirbhliana Nua a chur i bhfeidhm

Ceannaireacht



EFGanna i bpearsa agus seimineáir ghréasáin do cheannairí scoile

Réimsí fócais:

- Curaclam agus Pleanáil
- Clár Foghlama Leibhéal 1 agus Clár Foghlama Leibhéal 2 na Sraithe Sinsearaí a threorú
- Ag tacú le sonraíochtaí agus clár ó Athfhorbairt na Sraithe Sinsearaí
- FMS - Céim ar chéim

Clár Foghlama Leibhéal 1 agus Clár Foghlama Leibhéal 2 na Sraithe Sinsearaí



- Cnuasimeachtaí do scoileanna lar-bhunscoile agus scoileanna speisialta (EFGanna i bpearsa agus ar líne)
- EFGanna i bpearsa do scoileanna speisialta mar chuid de lá dúnta scoile
- Tacaíocht fhorlíontach ionscoile agus seimineáir ghréasáin
- Réimsí fócais: Réimsí Curaclaim agus Modúil na Sraithe Sinsearaí, Leibhéal 1 & 2

Cnuasimeachtaí EFG, Tráinse 1 & 2



- Cnuasimeachtaí do scoileanna
- Beidh EFGanna do gach ábhar i dTráinse 1 & 2 i bpearsa
- Beidh EFGanna do Thráinse 1 & 2 ag díriú ar dhiancheistiú agus ar chur i bhfeidhm na sonraíochtaí nua

EFGanna don dara hábhar teagaisc



San Earrach i 2026, cuirfidh foirne ábhair EFGanna don dara hábhar teagaisc ar fáil do mhúinteoirí a theagascann an dara hábhar ó thráinse 1 nó ó thráinse 2

Tacaíochtaí roghnacha



Cuirfidh ár bhfoirne do na hábhair atá mar chuid de thráinse 1 & 2 d'Athfhorbairt na Sraithe Sinsearaí réimse de thacaíochtaí roghnacha ar fáil lena n-áirítear comhair, ceardlanna praiticiúla agus seimineáir ghréasáin. Coinnigh súil ar oide.ie agus lean muid ar X @oide_ireland chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil.

Seimineár gréasáin ar scrúdpháipéar samplach



Seimineár gréasáin beo idirghníomhach d'ábhair i dTráinse 2 ag díriú ar scrúdpháipéar shamplacha CSS (tar éis a bhfoilsithe) Beartaithe don Earrach, 2026

Reminder: Sample Assessment Materials Timelines for Tranche 1



Now available

Additional Assessment Component (AAC) Guidelines are available on curriculumonline.ie.

Now available

Four sample examination papers - two Higher Level and two Ordinary Level - for each subject in Tranche 1 are available on examinations.ie

Now available

A sample brief for the AAC in 8 subjects are available to schools on examinations.ie

January 2026

A live brief for AACs for 8 subjects will be issued.

Further information on Senior Cycle Redevelopment
can be found at [gov.ie/seniorcycle](https://www.gov.ie/seniorcycle)

Queries in relation to this information note can be
directed to: scr_info@education.gov.ie



**An Roinn Oideachais
agus Óige**
Department of Education
and Youth