

Annual Report for 2009

The chairperson, Prof. Tom Collins, launched the Annual Report for 2009 at Council meeting on June 17th. In keeping with NCCA's Strategic Plan, the report was published in digital format. Read Prof. Collins comments at the launch [here](#). Watch the Annual Report [here](#).

I am delighted to launch the Annual Report of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment for 2009. Annual reports of state agencies function as statements of achievement – accounts of what was done, what was achieved, and how public money was spent. NCCA has taken this idea of the public audience and devised this digital format – with sound and video – for the presentation of its Strategic Plan, and now, for the first Annual Report arising from that. Feedback on this approach has been positive. The clarity and accessibility of what is being launched today is in line with one of the Council's core values – to engage a wide range of stakeholders in its work. Education is everyone's business.

In my introductory remarks to the report I note that this core value is reflected not just in our external engagements, but in the many committees and working groups through which the Council works. Membership of these is voluntary – there are no fees paid. For some, participating in an NCCA committee means taking a day's leave, or organising child care, or travelling to Dublin or Portlaoise – it is a remarkable exercise in social partnership, at a time when that partnership is under pressure in other contexts. The fact that the partnership is so productive is down to the commitment of all the organisations that comprise the Council, and the work of the executive.

Despite our June weather there are chill winds blowing for public sector organisations, and for education as a public project – in all sectors – in Ireland. Reconfiguring to do more with less, planning for uncertainty, and keeping children and young people engaged and hopeful are but three of the challenges we currently face. How we do that, how we respond now will determine how we – and the generations that follow us - emerge from the current crisis. That strikes me as much a moral as an economic imperative... perhaps even more so.

I want to thank the NCCA team who worked on the report. Special thanks are due to Marie Riney and Anna Walshe who are the producers and directors of the piece!

I hope you find the Report of interest.

Tom Collins

Chairperson

NCCA