



NCCA Strategic Planning

2009 - 2011

Vision and Mission

The NCCA will lead and support change in schools and other educational settings.

The role of the NCCA is to advise the Minister for Education and Science on curriculum and assessment for early childhood education and for primary and post-primary schools. This advice is generated through engagement with schools and educational settings, with committees and working groups and is informed by research, evaluation and foresight....



The Learning Site



Actions

- Work will cross traditional boundaries – early childhood and infant classes, and primary and post-primary.
- We will ask all those working with us in these settings what it was like to participate in a network and use this feedback to plan for future work
- NCCA will continue working with schools, early childhood, and other educational settings as part of the curriculum development process



Outcomes

- examples of curriculum/framework-in-action shared through ACTION curricula and syllabus revision informed by school community, teacher and learner feedback
- capacity-building, and a greater culture of innovation in schools and other settings
- emerging sense of schools and educational settings as places of innovation
- a greater focus on transitions and on learner progression across those transitions



The Committee Site



Actions

- We will continue to support committees through *The Comet*, the committee members newsletter.
- Committees will focus on connections and transitions, and we may convene new ‘connected’ committees to support work on transition for example.
- We will ensure that committees have access to evidence from research, and from school and setting networks.
- We will provide particular support for chairs, and generate a handbook to support them in their role.
- We will collect data on the experience of participation on NCCA committees, and use it to plan for improvement.



Outcomes

- participation on NCCA committees and working groups will continue to generate positive feedback
- working on NCCA committees will be seen as part of the project of leading and supporting change
- nominees will find it easier to generate reports and other communications with their nominating agency
- committees will have access to research findings in syntheses, reports, and other accessible formats
- a clear sense of the successes and challenges of the committee system as currently configured and plans for its future development



The Knowledge and Research Site



Actions

- We will continue to develop internal means for sharing knowledge and insights
- We will generate multiple sources of evidence and feedback for the evaluation of NCCA work in leading and supporting change.
- We will engage with and contribute to international research networks.
- We will explore new accessible media and formats for the dissemination of research findings.
- We will continue to publish and disseminate research conducted and commissioned by NCCA.



Outcomes

- research evidence accessible to a wide range of audiences both inside and outside education
- increased use of digital media for research dissemination
- benchmarking of curriculum and assessment developments here with international trends
- showcasing of developments in Ireland
- evidence gathered from the sites of change
- integration of research and evidence into developmental work



The virtual Site



Actions

- Staff will continue to develop new skills in supporting the virtual site and thus give more timely internal control over its development.
- We will work to position ACTION as a significant resource for schools and other settings leading and supporting change.
- We will continue to develop all three components of the site.



Outcomes

- increased access and usage, and recognition as the best site for information on curriculum and assessment
- ACTION used by schools and settings in planning for and reflecting on change



The Organisational Site



Actions

- We will keep our customer service strategy under review and include customer feedback as part of the organisational review.
- We will complete work on our HR system and review the first year of its operation.
- We will further develop our PMD strategy and support it by ongoing training and professional development.
- We will meet all our ongoing reporting and governance responsibilities and use digital media to ensure that the information is accessible to multiple audiences.
- We will continue to develop the relationship between organisational capacity, strategic priorities and resources



Outcomes

- flexibility and agility to respond to new challenges and priorities
- greater connections across the organisation – between sectors and areas of expertise
- staff continue to support strategic goals, even in challenging circumstances.
- new ground broken in the design and format of strategic planning and reporting



The Inter-Agency Site



Actions

- We will maintain our special relationship with CCEA/ESA Northern Ireland.
- We will also prioritise working with those agencies which offer potential for a shared services with a view to reducing costs.
- We will keep work at this site under ongoing review to ensure that we focus on engagements and collaborations that contribute to leading and supporting change in schools.
- We will continue to work with a wide range of agencies in leading and supporting change in schools and other educational settings.



Outcomes

- an emerging system-wide focus on schools as sites of innovation
- reflection on how change happens in Irish schools, and within the Irish education system more generally
- reduced proportion of funding spent on this site over time
- support for cross-border engagement generally, but particularly on curriculum and assessment areas identified for mutual co-operation and development

