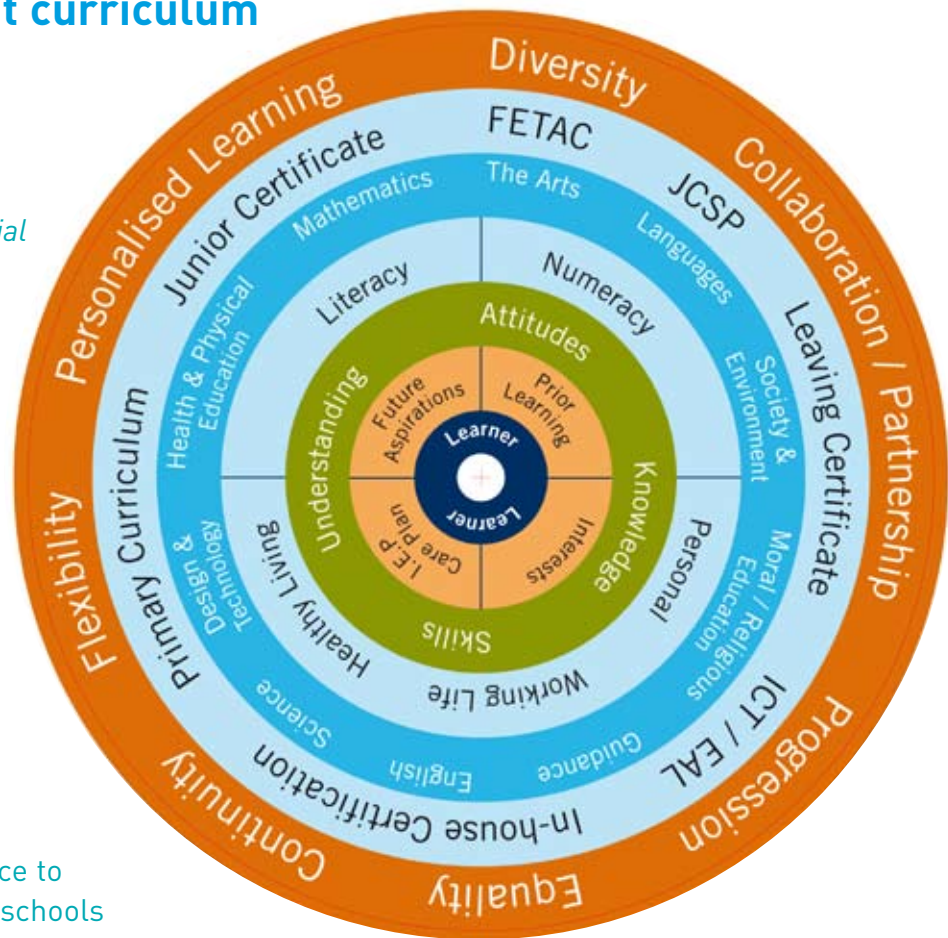


Inside out

A new way to think about curriculum

At the request of the Department of Education and Science, a *Curriculum Framework for Children Detention Schools, High Support Units and Special Care Units* has been developed by the NCCA. Children Detention Schools provide residential care, education and rehabilitation for children who are either remanded or committed by the High Court. High Support Care is for children with severe emotional and behavioural problems and Special Care Units accommodate children who are the subject of special care orders granted by the High Court. The *Curriculum Framework* identifies the aims, guiding principles and defining features of education programmes developed with reference to the framework for learners in these schools and units.



Aims

The aims of the framework are informed by the aims of the primary and post-primary curricula, combined with the views of teachers and learners in the settings on its role and purpose.

Curriculum Wheel

The *Curriculum Wheel* diagram relates the areas of learning included in educational programmes in schools and units to the other elements of the curriculum framework.

The curriculum revolves around the learner. It is represented as concentric circles on a wheel to act as a visual reminder/reflective tool for teachers and learners of the importance of maintaining a holistic view of the curriculum. Independently revolving, each of the inner circles aligns elements of the curriculum with their supporting/complementary features. The wheel highlights the responsibility of curriculum as a whole for such vital skills as literacy, numeracy and life skills, and the need to integrate knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes across all learning areas. The guiding principles that inform the curriculum framework are also emphasised in the outer circle.

An interactive version of the *Curriculum Wheel*, together with a short explanation of its elements, is available through the ACTION website, www.action.ncca.ie. The curriculum framework document can also be downloaded through this site or by following the links from the NCCA's website www.ncca.ie. Guidelines to support the implementation of the framework in the schools and units are being finalised and will be available to download from ACTION shortly.