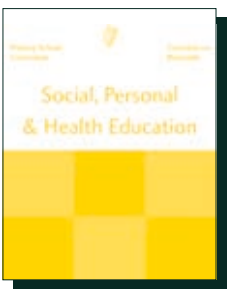
NCCA

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta

PRIMARY CURRICULUM REVIEW, PHASE 2

What you told us and where to next

WHAT IS PRIMARY CURRICULUM REVIEW, PHASE 2?



The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) has just published the final report on *Primary Curriculum Review, Phase 2*. This phase focused on the experiences of teachers, principals, children, and parents with the Primary School Curriculum (1999), and in particular with *Gaeilge, Science* and *Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)*.

Responses were gathered from almost 1,400 teachers and 8 case study schools. A team from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra gathered more detailed information from children about their experience with Science.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their participation.

This leaflet summarises the findings from Phase 2 of the review, and our plans to respond to them. You may find it useful during your school's development planning discussions.

HAS A REVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM EVER BEEN DONE BEFORE?

As the title of the leaflet suggests, the recent review is the second of its type undertaken by the NCCA. The first review, published in 2005, focused on *English*, *Visual Arts* and *Mathematics*. Here's a reminder of the responses to some of the main findings from the first review. These resources are available at **www.ncca.ie**.

THE NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

Additional Support Material: structure of the English Curriculum

THE NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

A DVD and a growing bank of tip sheets and information leaflets for parents

THE NEED FOR SUPPORT WITH ASSESSMENT

Assessment guidelines and report card templates

ACTION

online support for teaching & learning

THE NEED FOR MORE GUIDELINES ON METHODS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

www.action.ncca.ie shows, rather than tells, the 'how to' of teaching and learning.

SO WHAT DOES THE MOST RECENT REVIEW TELL US?

The review identified many successes in the teaching and learning of *Gaeilge*, *Science* and *SPHE*. The table below presents a summary of the main successes as reported by teachers, principals, children, and parents.

SUCCESSES	
Gaeilge	**Children** ▪ enjoy Gaeilge, particularly the use of active learning methods ▪ use oral Gaeilge in an informal way ▪ have a growing love for the language.
Science	**Children** ▪ show great interest in and enjoyment of Science ▪ display development of the skills of working scientifically ▪ demonstrate an increased awareness and understanding of the world around them.
SPHE	**Children** ▪ display increased self-esteem and self-confidence, and the ability to communicate effectively with others ▪ demonstrate an awareness and acceptance of the needs and opinions of others ▪ indicate a growing awareness of environmental issues and the active role they can play in protecting the natural world.

While there was a lot of good news, teachers identified some challenges too. Across the three subjects, these related mainly to time, teaching and learning methods and assessment. A summary of the main challenges is presented below.

CHALLENGES	
Time	**Teachers** ▪ perceived the curriculum to be overloaded ▪ reported having insufficient time to support the learning needs of all children, particularly in large classes and in multi-grade situations.
Teaching and learning methods	**Teachers** ▪ reported challenges concerning integration, differentiation, and the development of higher-order thinking skills ▪ identified whole-class teaching as the organisational setting most frequently used ▪ highlighted the need for additional resources, including ICT supports.
Assessment	**Teachers** ▪ recognised the need to use a wider range of assessment methods ▪ identified the need for support in giving feedback to children about their learning ▪ drew attention to the challenge involved in making judgements about children's progress in learning.

Teachers also reported a number of challenges specific to *Curaclam na Gaeilge*: children's limited range of language experiences, teachers' focus on meaning versus form and the use of two phonic codes when teaching and learning Gaeilge and English.

If you'd like to find out more about what was reported for Gaeilge, Science or SPHE, please turn to the final page of this leaflet for details.

WHERE TO NEXT?

Primary School Network

The NCCA will address the review findings in a practical way by working with teachers, principals children, and parents through a network of primary schools. The network will provide great scope for working directly with schools, in order to shape responses to the identified challenges in a way that reflects the reality of primary classrooms. For instance, the network will facilitate the development of practical examples of group work and pair work, differentiation, integration, and assessment, based on the experiences of a wide range of teachers and children.

Teachers have given us clear messages about curriculum overload. In addressing this issue the NCCA will work with the network schools to explore strategies that will give teachers and children the time and space they need for teaching and learning across the Primary School Curriculum.

The Primary School Network represents a new and exciting way of involving everyone in developing the curriculum. The network will support the work of the NCCA in leading and supporting change, and in ensuring that the curriculum remains responsive to the needs of teachers and children.

If your school would like to be part of the work of the Primary School Network, please visit ***www.action.ncca.ie*** *to view some of the projects and email action@ncca.ie indicating your interest.*

ACTION website

Sample materials gathered through the Primary School Network will be made available on the recently launched ACTION (Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching Innovation on the Net) section of the NCCA website.

ACTION is designed to show, rather than tell, the 'how to' of teaching and learning through media like video, photo, text and audio.

There are currently three projects on ACTION

- Assessment for Learning
- English as an Additional Language
- ICT Framework.

These projects, and more, will be developed over time.

www.action.ncca.ie

HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PRIMARY CURRICULUM REVIEW, PHASE 2?

You can check out the following reports and their executive summaries on the NCCA website at **www.ncca.ie**.

Primary Curriculum Review, Phase 1 (2005)
Primary Curriculum Review, Phase 2 (2008)
Science in Primary Schools, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Varley, Murphy and Veale, 2008)

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
24 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
Ireland
T: +353 1 661 7177
F: +353 1 661 7180
E: info@ncca.ie
www.ncca.ie

NCCA

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta

ATHBHREITHNIÚ AR CHURACLAM NA BUNSCOILE, CÉIM 2

A ndúirt sibh linn agus an chéad chéim eile

CAD É AN tATHBHREITHNIÚ AR CHURACLAM NA BUNSCOILE, CÉIM 2?

Tá an tuarascáil deiridh ar *Athbhreithniú ar Churaclam na Bunscoile, Céim 2* díreach foilsithe ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta (CNCM). Sa chéim seo den athbhreithniú, díríodh ar eispéireas príomhoidí, múinteoirí, leanaí agus tuismitheoirí le *Curaclam na Bunscoile* (1999), agus go mór mór sa *Ghaeilge*, san *Eolaíocht* agus san *Oideachas Sóisialta, Pearsanta agus Sláinte (OSPS)*.

Bailíodh tuairimí ó bheagnach 1,400 múinteoir agus ó chás-staidéir le 8 scoil. Bhailigh foireann ó Choláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach faisnéis níos mionsonraithe ó leanaí faoina n-eispéireas san Eolaíocht.

Buíochas ó chroí le cách as páirt a ghlacadh.

Sa bhileog seo tá achoimre ar na torthaí ó Chéim 2 den athbhreithniú, agus a bhfuil i gceist againn mar fhreagra orthu. D'fhéadfadh an bhileog bheith áisiúil agus pleanáil forbartha scoile á plé agaibh féin.

AN nDEARNADH ATHBHREITHNIÚ AR AN gCURACLAM RIAMH ROIMHE?

Mar a thugann teideal na bileoige seo le tuiscint, ia é an t-athbhreithniú le gairid an dara ceann dá leithéid. Dhírigh an chéad athbhreithniú, a foilsíodh in 2005, ar *Bhéarla*, ar *na hAmharcealaíona* agus ar *Mhatamaitic*. Seo achoimre ar na freagraí ar roinnt de na príomhthorthaí ón gcéad athbhreithniú. Tá na háiseanna seo ar fáil ag **www.ncca.ie**.

AN GÁ LE hATHSTRUCHTÚRÚ A DHÉANAMH AR CHURACLAM AN BHÉARLA

Ábhar Tacaíochta Breise: struchtúr Churaclam an Bhéarla

AN GÁ LE BREIS EOLAIS DO THUISMITHEOIRÍ

DVD agus bileoga eolais do thuismitheoirí, agus ábhair nua á bhforbairt go leanúnach

AN GÁ LE TACAÍOCHT MAIDIR LE MEASÚNÚ

Treoirlínte ar mheasúnú agus teimpléid de chártaí tuairisce

ACTION
online support for teaching & learning

AN GÁ LE GÁ BREIS TREOIRLÍNTE FAOI MHODHANNA TEAGAISC AGUS FOGHLAMA

Déanann **www.action.ncca.ie** 'an chaoi' le tabhairt faoin múinteoireacht agus faoin bhfoghlaim a thaispeáint, seachas cur síos a dhéanamh uirthi.

CAD A CHUIREANN AN tATHBHREITHNIÚ IS DÉANAÍ IN IÚL DÚINN?

San athbhreithniú aithníodh an-chuid éachtaí maidir le teagasc agus foghlaim na *Gaeilge*, na *hEolaíochta* agus *OSPS*. Tá achoimre ar na príomhéachtaí sa tábla thíos, de réir mar a chuir príomhoidí, múinteoirí, leanaí, agus tuismitheoirí in iúl dúinn iad.

ÉACHTAÍ	
Gaeilge	**Bíonn leanaí** ▪ ag baint taitnimh as an nGaeilge, go mór mór as na modhanna foghlama gníomhacha ▪ ag baint feidhme as Gaeilge labhartha ar bhealach neamhfhoirmiúil ▪ ceanúil ar an teanga, agus tá fás ag teacht ar a ngrá di.
Eolaíocht	**Bíonn leanaí** ▪ ag léiriú spéise as cuimse san Eolaíocht agus ag baint taitnimh aisti ▪ ag léiriú go bhfuil na scileanna a bhaineann le bheith ag obair go heolaíoch á bhforbairt acu ▪ ag léiriú breis feasachta agus tuisceana faoin saol thart timpeall orthu.
OSPS	**Bíonn leanaí** ▪ ag léiriú breis féinmheasa agus féinmhuiníne, agus léiríonn siad gur féidir leo cumarsáid éifeachtach a dhéanamh le daoine eile ▪ ag léiriú feasachta faoi riachtanais agus thuairimí daoine eile, agus ag glacadh leo ▪ ag taispeáint breis feasachta faoi cheisteanna timpeallachta agus faoin ról gníomhach a d'fhéadfadh a bheith acu chun an t-imshaol nádúrtha a chaomhnú.

Cé go raibh an-chuid dea-scéalta ann, d'aithin múinteoirí dúshláin freisin. Sna trí ábhair, bhain siad seo den chuid is mó le ham, le modhanna teagaisc is foghlama agus le measúnú. Tá achoimre ar na príomhdhúshláin anseo thíos.

DÚSHLÁIN	
Am	**Dúirt múinteoirí:** ▪ go bhfuil an iomarca sa churaclam ▪ nach bhfuil go leor ama acu chun tacú le riachtanais foghlama na leanaí ar fad, go mór mór i ranganna móra agus ranganna ilghrád.
Modhanna teagaisc agus foghlama	**Dúirt múinteoirí:** ▪ go bhfuil dúshláin ann maidir le comhtháthú, le difreálú, agus le forbairt scileanna ardoird smaointeoireachta ▪ gur é teagasc ranga ina iomláine an leagan amach is modh a mbaintear feidhm as, ó thaobh eagrú ranga de ▪ go bhfuil gá le háiseanna breise, go mór mór tacaíocht maidir le TFC.
Measúnú	**Dúirt múinteoirí:** ▪ gur gá feidhm a bhaint as réimse níos leithne de mhodhanna measúnaithe ▪ go bhfuil tacaíocht uathu maidir le haiseolas a thabhairt do leanaí faoina gcuid foghlama ▪ gur dúshlán é breithiúnas a thabhairt ar dhul chun cinn leanaí.

Chuir múinteoirí roinnt dúshlán a bhaineann go sonrach le *Curaclam na Gaeilge* in iúl freisin: an réimse teoranta eispéiris teanga a bhíonn ag leanaí, béim á cur ar bhrí seachas ar fhoirm, agus deacrachtaí a bhaineann le dhá chód foghraíochta a bheith in úsáid i múineadh agus foghlaim na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla.

Más mian leat breis eolais a fháil faoin méid a tuairiscíodh maidir le Gaeilge, le hEolaíocht nó le OSPS, féach ar an leathanach deireanach den bhileog seo.

AN CHÉAD CHÉIM EILE

An Líonra Bunscoile

Tabharfaidh an Chomhairle aghaidh ar thorthaí an athbhreithnithe ar bhealach praiticiúil trí oibriú le leanaí, múinteoirí, príomhoidí agus tuismitheoirí i líonra bunscoileanna. Tabharfaidh an líonra deiseanna iontacha dúinn oibriú go díreach le scoileanna chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin a aithníodh san athbhreithniú, ar bhealach a léiríonn an saol mar atá i ranganna bunscoile. Mar shampla, leis an líonra féadfar samplaí praiticiúla a fhorbairt chun obair grúpaí agus obair péire, difreálú, chomhtháthú, agus measúnú a léiriú, bunaithe ar thaithí réimse leathan múinteoirí agus leanaí.

Chuir múinteoirí teachtaireachtaí soiléire in iúl dúinn maidir leis an iomarca a bheith sa churaclam. Agus aghaidh á tabhairt ar an gceist seo aici, oibreoidh an Chomhairle leis na scoileanna sa líonra chun straitéisí a fhorbairt a dtabharfaidh an t-am agus an spás atá ag teastáil don teagasc agus don fhoghlaim thar réimse Churaclam na Bunscoile do mhúinteoirí agus do pháistí.

Is bealach nua spreagúil é an Líonra Bunscoile chun a chinnitú go mbeidh gach duine páirteach i bhforbairt an churaclaim. Tacóidh an líonra le hobair na Comhairle chun athrú curaclaim a threorú agus tacú leis, agus chun cinntiú go bhfreastalaíonn an curaclam ar riachtanais múinteoirí agus leanaí i gcónaí.

Más mian le do scoil a bheith páirteach sa Líonra Bunscoile gabh chuig ***www.action.ncca.ie*** *chun breathnú ar chuid de na tionscadail, agus cuir ríomhphost chuig action@ncca.ie chun do spéis a chur in iúl dúinn.*

Láithreán Gréasáin ACTION

Cuirfear ábhair shamplacha a bhaileofar tríd an líonra bunscoile ar fáil ar ACTION, rannán nua de láithreán Gréasáin na CNCM atá tiomanta do nuálaíocht mheasúnaithe, curaclaim agus teagaisc.

Tá sé mar aidhm ag ACTION 'an chaoi' le tabhairt faoin múinteoireacht agus faoin bhfoghlaim a thaispeáint, seachas cur síos a dhéanamh uirthi. Baintear feidhm as cur chuige ilmheánach lena n-áirítear físeáin lín, grianghraif agus téacsanna.

Trí thionsadal atá ar ACTION faoi láthair:

- Measúnú chun Foghlama
- Béarla mar Theanga Bhreise
- Creat don TFC.

Déanfar na tionscadail seo, agus tionscadail eile nach iad, a fhorbairt de réir a chéile.

www.action.ncca.ie

AN BHFUIL EOLAS BREISE UAIT MAIDIR LE hATHBHREITHNIÚ AR CHURACLAM NA BUNSCOILE, CÉIM 2?

Is féidir leat breathnú ar na tuarascálacha seo a leanas, agus ar na h-achoimrí feidhmiúcháin orthu, ar láithreán Gréasáin na Comhairle ag **www.ncca.ie**.

Primary Curriculum Review, Phase 1 (2005)
Primary Curriculum Review, Phase 2 (2008)
Science in Primary Schools, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Varley, Murphy and Veale, 2008)

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
24 Cearnóg Mhuirfean
Baile Átha Cliath 2
Éire
G: +353 1 661 7177
F: +353 1 661 7180
R: info@ncca.ie
www.ncca.ie