

A Curriculum Framework for Guidance in Post-Primary Education

Consultation Questionnaire

The NCCA is undertaking a consultation on the Draft Curriculum Framework for Guidance which has been prepared at the request of the Department of Education and Science. You are invited to participate in the consultation by responding to this questionnaire, which summarises the relevant issues. Copies of the draft framework and questionnaire have been sent to all post-primary schools and to other interested organisations and groups. The draft framework and this questionnaire are also available to download or can be completed online through the NCCA website, www.ncca.ie

The consultation period will close on Friday 23 February 2007

Name:

Address:

Responding on behalf of:
(if applicable)

Date:

I am a:
(Please tick ✓ one)

Guidance Counsellor ☐ School Principal ☐ Parent ☐

Teacher ☐ (subject/s)

School Chaplain ☐ Third-Level Lecturer ☐ Employer ☐

Other ☐ (please specify)

Please submit responses to:	Guidance Consultation, NCCA, 24 Merrion Square, Dublin, 2.
E-mail response to:	info@ncca.ie
Enquiries should be addressed to:	Hal O'Neill, Education Officer, Tel. (01) 6617177 or info@ncca.ie

Please feel free to use additional sheets where the space provided in the questionnaire is not enough.

A Curriculum Framework for Guidance in Post-Primary Education

Introduction

The draft curriculum framework offers an outline of curricular experiences (both individual and group experiences) in the areas of Personal, Educational and Career Guidance. In following this threefold division the framework recognises that in practice these areas are frequently interlinked and interdependent. Although it does not assume a linear sequence of development from topic to topic or from curriculum focus to curriculum focus, the framework offers some broad indications as to year groups for which each topic might be considered appropriate.

- The main aim of the curriculum framework is to provide support for schools in planning the provision of access to appropriate guidance for students. The school guidance plan is the vehicle through which the school, in a systematic way, defines the guidance programme it offers, and states how resources are organised to deliver it.
- The Draft Curriculum Framework is not a guidance programme or plan. Its purpose is to assist schools in guidance planning.

The framework has been disseminated to all post-primary schools and to a wide range of bodies (statutory and non-statutory) with an interest in this area.

The consultative period will close on Friday 23 February 2007.

Following any necessary revisions on the basis of the consultation, the framework will be presented to the Council of the NCCA. On approval, it will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Science with recommendations for implementation, including resource implications and professional development requirements.

Implementing a Guidance Programme in Post-Primary schools

The guidance and counselling service in a school addresses the personal, educational and career needs of all its students. The Guidance Counsellor participates in and co-ordinates the school guidance and counselling service. This participation can be categorized under three integrated areas of activity:

- Personal Guidance and Counselling
- Educational Guidance and Counselling
- Career Guidance and Counselling.

1 Guidance in Education

Guidance aims to assist students to grow in independence, to take responsibility for themselves, to make informed choices about their lives and to follow through on those choices.

Please comment on the level of importance you would attach to guidance in post-primary education and your views regarding its role and purpose(s).

2 Guidance as the responsibility of the whole school community

While the guidance counsellor/s will have primary responsibility for the delivery of the school's guidance and counselling programme, the provision of access to appropriate guidance is the responsibility of the whole school community.

(a) Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement by ticking ✓ the relevant box:

A whole-school approach is the most effective way to address the guidance needs of all students.

Strongly Agree ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly Disagree ☐

Comment:

(b) In your view what factors contribute most positively to the development of a whole-school approach to guidance provision?

- (c)** In your view what factors hinder most strongly the development of a whole-school approach to guidance provision?

3 Structure of the Draft Framework

The curriculum tables section of the Draft Framework for Guidance is divided into three areas of focus: Personal Guidance, Educational Guidance, and Career Development.

- (a)** Using a scale of 5 to 1 (where 5 is very important and 1 is unimportant), please indicate the relative importance of the areas of Personal, Educational and Career guidance in a school's guidance provision by placing a tick ✓ in the relevant box.

	Very important	5	4	3	2	1	Unimportant
Personal Guidance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational Guidance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Career Development		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Comment:

(b) Personal Guidance

In your view are the guidance needs of post-primary students appropriately reflected in the tables in this section? Please tick ✓

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please comment:

(c) Educational Guidance

In your view are the guidance needs of post-primary students appropriately reflected in the tables in this section? Please tick ✓

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please comment:

(d) Career Development

In your view are the guidance needs of post-primary students appropriately reflected in the tables in this section? Please tick ✓

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please comment:

4 A Supportive School Environment

Situating the Draft Curriculum Framework in a supportive school environment is considered to be the most effective approach for its implementation. The Draft Curriculum promotes:

- A cross-curricular approach to Guidance
- Guidance situated in the whole school plan
- The involvement of the whole school community – Board of Management, Principal, Guidance Counsellor/s, Staff, Parents & Students

(a) What in your view are the most important elements in a post-primary school guidance programme?

(b) The Draft Curriculum Framework states that Guidance should address the needs of all students in a developmental way.

Please indicate your level of agreement:

Agree strongly ☐ Agree ☐ Disagree ☐

Please comment:

5 Planning the implementation of the curriculum framework in post-primary education

- (a)** In your view what school resources would be required to support the implementation of the draft curriculum framework?

- (b)** What, in your opinion, are the professional development needs of guidance counsellors to enable them to participate in a whole school approach to guidance?

- (c)** What, in your opinion, are the professional development needs of teachers of subjects/programmes to enable them to participate in a whole school approach to guidance?

6 Additional Comments

Please use the space below to make any additional comments on current issues of relevance to the provision of access to appropriate guidance in post-primary education.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this consultation questionnaire.

Please return to NCCA by **Friday 23rd February 2007**

© 2007 NCCA

National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
24 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.
T 01 661 7177 | F 01 661 7180 | www.ncca.ie