

Rannóg Pholasaí,  
Churaclaim agus Mheasúnachta,  
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna,  
Bloc 2,  
Sráid Maoilbhríde,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1



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## **To Boards of Management and Principals of Post-Primary Schools and Chief Executive Officers of Education and Training Boards**

**Date: 8 December 2017**

**Circular letter: 0080/2017**

### **Physical Education in Senior Cycle**

Dear Principal,

You will be aware of the announcement by Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, T.D. regarding the phased introduction of two new curriculums for Physical Education in senior cycle. The Department of Education and Skills is planning the phased introduction in September 2018 of:

1. Leaving Certificate Physical Education (optional subject for examination in the Leaving Certificate)
2. The Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (not for examination).

Phase 1 of the implementation process will involve a small cohort of schools who have the capacity to introduce Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate subject and/or The Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework in September 2018.

Your school is invited to apply to participate in this first phase. There are three options available for your school to choose from and they are outlined below:

- Option A: Introduce Leaving Certificate Physical Education, as an optional subject, on the timetable from September 2018 for examination in the Leaving Certificate in 2020.

- Option B: Introduce the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework in September 2018
- Option C: Introduce both Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (SCPE) and Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) in September 2018

Please see Appendix 1 of this letter for further information on the options outlined above, including the criteria to be used to select schools to participate in each option.

If your school is interested in applying to become one of the Phase 1 schools, please complete the questionnaire at this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8ST7J7D>. The questionnaire is designed to be completed jointly by the school principal and the relevant teacher(s). The closing date for submitting your application through the online questionnaire is 16 January.

Arrangements in relation to Phase 2 implementation of Leaving Certificate Physical Education and the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework will be communicated to schools in due course.

Further information is available at [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

Yours sincerely,

Eamonn Moran  
Principal Officer  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit

## **Appendix 1**

### **Option 1:**

#### **Leaving Certificate Physical Education (For examination)**

Schools will be selected to participate in Phase 1 of the implementation of Leaving Certificate Physical Education on the basis of the following criteria:

- A willingness to offer Physical Education as an optional Leaving Certificate subject on the timetable from September 2018.
- The school can identify a teacher (or teachers), with a relevant qualification recognised by the Teaching Council, who are interested in teaching Physical Education as an examination subject for the Leaving Certificate.
- Teachers who are willing to participate in professional development within school time.
- The school is willing to release teachers to attend professional development during school time.
- A willingness among participating teachers to participate in professional development in their own time.
- A viable number of students prepared to study Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate subject.
- Suitable facilities including indoor and outdoor spaces for learning in Physical Education
- There is support from the Board of Management and senior leadership within the school, in consultation with the school community, for this initiative.

### **Option 2:**

#### **Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (Not for examination)**

The Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework is designed to support teachers in planning quality learning in Physical Education for all students in senior cycle. The Framework is structured around six curriculum models and is designed to be taught over the two or three years of senior cycle. It is recommended that a double period or its equivalent<sup>1</sup> per week is made available as a minimum requirement for teaching Senior Cycle Physical Education.

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant for schools who organise their timetable around one hour classes

Schools will be selected to participate in Phase 1 of the implementation of the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework on the basis of the following criteria:

- A willingness to offer a double period or its equivalent<sup>2</sup> for Senior Cycle Physical Education on the timetable from September 2018.
- The school can identify a teacher (or teachers) who are willing to teach the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework and who have a relevant qualification recognised by the Teaching Council
- Teacher(s) who are willing to participate in professional development within school time.
- The school is willing to release teachers to attend professional development during school time
- A willingness among participating teachers to participate in professional development in their own time
- Suitable facilities including indoor and/or outdoor spaces for learning in Physical Education
- There is support from the Board of Management and senior leadership within the school, in consultation with the school community, for this initiative.

**Option 3:**

**Introduction of both Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (SCPE) and Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE)**

In Phase 1, a small number of schools will be selected to introduce both Leaving Certificate Physical Education and Senior Cycle Physical Education simultaneously.

Schools will be selected to participate in this option on the basis of the all of the criteria outlined above and the following additional criterion:

- At least one physical education teacher willing to teach SCPE and another teacher to teach LCPE.

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<sup>2</sup> Relevant for schools who organise their timetable around one hour classes

In considering which of the three options may be most suitable for your school, it will be important to consult with the physical education teacher(s). To help with the selection of teachers, LCPE specification and the SCPE Framework are available on the NCCA website (URL). The following guidelines may be of some assistance also:

For the purposes of this initiative, participating teachers must have

- a relevant qualification recognised by the Teaching Council
- expressed a genuine interest in teaching Physical Education in the selected option
- a willingness to undertake professional development which will start in the coming school term. The professional development is designed to prepare teachers for the introduction of the Leaving Certificate Physical Education specification and the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework. It will include opportunities to develop/refresh pedagogical and digital technology skills and to acquire knowledge relevant to the new courses. Some professional learning is likely to take place outside of school time.