Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Schools Information Note

March 2025 Issue 10

Senior Cycle Redevelopment Information and Updates

Introduction

This is the tenth edition in a series of Department of Education Senior Cycle Redevelopment information notes. These notes provide updates to school communities on the roll-out of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme. The Department has issued this note to all post-primary schools and requests that it be circulated to students, parents and staff in each school. The information note will also be available online and schools are welcome to provide links from their websites and other digital presences to it.

Main updates

Consultation now open.
The public consultation on Tranche 2 subjects is now open.
Visit "Have Your Say" on NCCA.ie now.

Final specifications – where to find them
All final specifications for Tranche One subjects are published on [curriculumonline.ie.](curriculumonline.ie)

Press release: The Minister for Education and Youth announced the details of the final phase of the Post-Primary Schoolbooks Scheme. Read [here.](here)

Further information on Senior Cycle Redevelopment can be found at gov.ie/seniorcycle

Queries in relation to this information note can be directed to: scr_info@education.gov.ie

Have your say
Consultations now open
Tranche 2 subjects

English

There are three assessment components in the draft English specification: a written examination, an oral examination and a creative writing task.

Geography

Engineering

Physical Education

Accounting

Construction Studies

LCVP Link Modules

Construction Studies will be renamed Construction Technology

LCVP will be renamed Community, Life and Work Studies

All consultations will involve in-depth engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders across Ireland. The NCCA will also contact schools to participate in school-based focus groups involving teachers, students and school leaders.

1. **Visit NCCA.ie**
2. **Click "Have Your Say"**
3. **Or click the links above**

The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Conference for School Leaders

The Department of Education's Senior Cycle Redevelopment Conference for School Leaders took place in Croke Park Conference Centre in February 2025.

The event was attended by over 400 school leaders, as well as key stakeholders within the Senior Cycle Education Sector. Slides and videos from the day will be made available on gov.ie/seniorcycle in due course.

The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme Management Office are analysing feedback received through mentimeter on the day, as well as the post-event survey.

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Supports for teachers and school leaders on the use of AI

Oide provides comprehensive support for teachers and school leaders on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly Generative AI (Gen AI) in education. A dedicated webpage, [Artificial Intelligence in Schools](#), provides access to resources including an introductory online course, "AI for Schools." This course helps educators understand AI, highlighting key policy documents and ethical considerations as outlined in the Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027.

Oide resources also include:

- **Bespoke [school support,](#)** where a digital technologies team professional learning leader provides support tailored to the specific needs of each school, focusing on the use of AI in learning, teaching, and assessment,

- [**AI for Schools Video Series**](#), a series of interviews with experts on the topic of AI in the Irish and European education context.

- The [**Webwise AI Hub**](#) for online safety, provides information and resources on artificial intelligence and how it can benefit and support users, as well the current limitations and concerns about its use.

- The **Webwise [AUP Generator](#)** has been recently updated, providing 21 statements that guide appropriate use of AI tools in your school.

- [**Artificial Intelligence: Five Considerations for Teacher Use Infographic**](#)**.** A concise guide to support responsible, effective, and inclusive integration of AI into teachers' practice.

- [**The RASE Prompt Framework for Implementing AI in Teaching**](#). A practical resource designed to help educators craft clear, effective prompts for interacting with GenAI tools.

These resources are designed to equip educators with the knowledge to utilise AI effectively and ethically in their professional environments.

Updates from Oide

![Oide logo] Oide — Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí Scoile agus Múinteoirí — Supporting the Professional Learning of School Leaders and Teachers

Professional Learning Experiences (PLE Day 2) for the senior cycle sciences are ongoing in education centres around the country and will run until early April.

PLE Day 2 is subject specific for teachers of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is designed to

- introduce the specification
- engage with familiar and unfamiliar content through the lens of inquiry learning and the unifying strand
- support planning in senior cycle sciences for the coming years

To register for a place at these events: please click: Teachers - Oide

Now available
Additional Assessment Component (AAC) Guidelines are available on curriculumonline.ie.

Coming soon: April 2025
Four sample examination papers - two Higher Level and two Ordinary Level - for each subject in Tranche 1 will issue to schools. This is a total of 36 sample papers across the nine subjects– 72 papers in total when Irish Versions are included. The papers will include guidance on the mark allocations.

September 2025
Specifications in new and revised subjects introduced in schools. A sample brief for the AAC in each subject will be in schools at the same time.

January 2026
A live brief for AACs for all subjects will be issued.

Oide

Professional Learning Webinar Series

Oide is providing a series of live and interactive webinars for teachers of Senior Cycle Tranche 1 subjects, following the publication of the SEC Sample Papers. Subjects include:

- ✓ Physics
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Drama, Film and Theatre Studies
- ✓ Biology
- ✓ Business
- ✓ Climate Action and Sustainable Development
- ✓ Classical Languages - Ancient Greek & Latin

This series, designed in collaboration with the State Examinations Commission, will be provided over a two-week period from Monday, 28th of April to Friday, 9th of May. The schedule is designed to offer school leaders choice and flexibility when registering teachers for these webinars. Substitution will be provided.

Webinar schedule

MON 28 April	TUE 29 April	WED 30 April	THU 1 May	FRI 2 May
Biology 09:15 - 11:15	**Business** 09:15 - 11:15	**Physics** 09:15 - 11:15	**Chemistry — or — Classical Languages** 09:15 - 11:15	**Biology** 09:15 - 11:15
Climate Action & Sustainable Development 13:30 - 15:30	**Chemistry** 13:30 - 15:30		**Business** 13:30 - 15:30	

MON 5 May	TUE 6 May	WED 7 May	THU 8 May	FRI 9 May
Bank Holiday	**Climate Action and Sustainable Development** 09:15 - 11:15	**Business** 09:15 - 11:15	**Biology** 09:15 - 11:15	**Physics** 09:15 - 11:15
	Drama, Film & Theatre Studies 13:30 - 15:30		**Drama, Film & Theatre Studies** 13:30 - 15:30	

- ✓ Substitution cover provided
- ✓ 15 individual live and interactive events, with opportunities for Q&A
- ✓ 2 hour engagements with Oide subject teams
- ✓ Choice and flexibility for registration
- ✓ A full-day in-person professional learning event, with a focus on assessment, will follow in Term 1 of 2025/2026

Registration opens on Thursday, 27th of March and will close on Wednesday, 9th of April. School management will register teachers for each webinar using Oide Registration.

Click here to access Oide registration

Leading Senior Cycle Development in your school

This professional learning experience offers school leaders the opportunity to establish and progress their priorities for Senior Cycle Redevelopment. By collaborating with fellow school leaders, we aim to support you in planning for successful Senior Cycle implementation.

This professional learning experience will address the following objectives:

Gaining insight and confidence to shape your school's Senior Cycle development journey
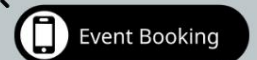
Leading effective teaching, learning, and assessment practices that deepen student learning and achievement

Fostering a culture of collaboration to support a student-centred approach that enhances student learning.

Dates: March to May 2025

Location: Series of Regional PLEs - See Event Booking for details

Two registered School Leaders are invited to attend per school

Substitution cover is provided, where required

Participants are required to bring a digital device

Scan or click the QR code to access Event Booking

Oide

Event Booking

@Oide_Leadership   oide.ie   linda.hogan@oide.ie

Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes – Professional Learning

Professional Learning for Special Schools

Oide is currently providing online cluster and in-school professional learning to special schools for Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes. So far over 800 school leaders and teachers have engaged with this professional learning. All special school principals were emailed with the details of this professional learning, if you did not receive this email, please contact info@oide.ie with your school roll number.

In addition to the school closure professional learning, Oide will host an online information session for school leaders and teachers from special schools on Senior Cycle L1LPs and L2LPs in May. To book your place please visit Teachers - Oide and search for Senior Cycle L1LPs L2LPs and select Special School Senior Cycle L1LPs L2LPs Information Session . Recordings of the previous information sessions for special schools are available on the Oide website here.

Professional Learning for Post-primary Schools

Oide explored Senior Cycle L1LPs and L2LPs as part of the cluster Professional learning for Post-primary teachers. Approximately 1300 teachers attended these professional learning clusters.
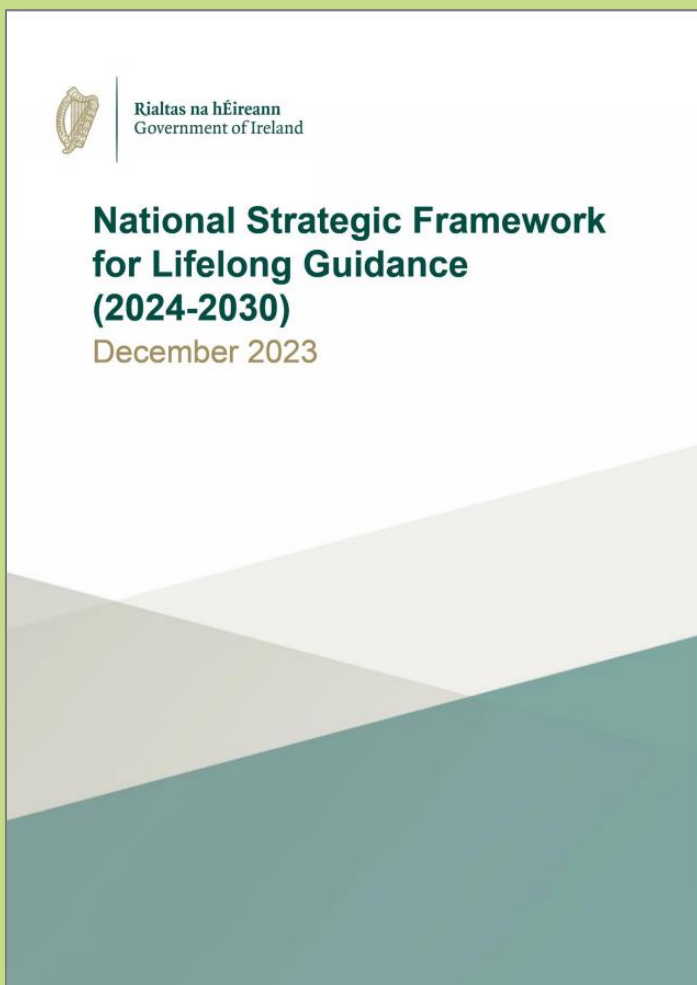
In addition to the cluster Professional learning, the Oide Post-primary Inclusive Education team has hosted two webinars on Senior Cycle L1LPs L2LPs in Terms 1 and 2. The recordings of these webinars can be found on the Oide website here. The Oide Post-primary Inclusive Education team will host a third webinar on Senior Cycle L1LPs L2LPs for Post-primary schools in May. To book your place please visit Teachers - Oide and search Senior Cycle L1LPs L2LPs and select Mainstream Senior Cycle L1LPs L2LPs Information Session. School leaders and all teachers from Post-primary schools are welcome to attend this webinar.

National Consultation on Post-Primary Guidance now open

The Department of Education's guidance unit wishes to invite all stakeholders of post-primary guidance to participate in a National Consultation on Post-Primary Guidance within a Lifelong Guidance Landscape.

All are welcome to participate in the consultation including individuals, groups, and organisations. There are various means of participation.

The consultation will remain open until **5pm on 09 April.**

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

National Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance (2024-2030)
December 2023

The consultation is available here:
https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/ec33d-national-consultation-on-post-primary-guidance/

Further information on Senior Cycle Redevelopment
can be found at gov.ie/seniorcycle

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