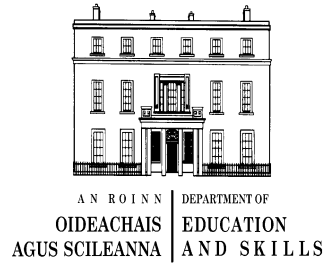


Rannóg Pholasáí,  
Churaclaim agus Mheasúnachta,  
An Roinn Oideachais agus  
Scileanna,  
Bloc 2,  
Sráid Maoilbhríde,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1



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**Circular Letter 0059/2017**

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

**Date: September 2017**

**Leaving Certificate Politics and Society 2018/19**

Dear Principal,

You will be aware that a new Leaving Certificate subject, Politics and Society, was introduced in 41 schools during the 2016/17 academic year. These schools will continue to deliver the subject in 2017/18, and well over 900 students will sit the first Leaving Certificate examination in Politics and Society in June 2018.

Following this initial phase, the new subject is being made available to all interested schools, should they wish to offer it as an option on their timetables for Leaving Certificate, beginning in the 2018/19 academic year. As part of this provision, a programme of continuing professional development (CPD) will be made available to teachers timetabled to teach Politics and Society from September 2018. This programme will commence during the 2017/18 academic year. In deciding whether your school is interested in offering this new subject, a number of considerations should be taken into account:

- Schools should be able to demonstrate a willingness and capacity to offer Politics and Society as a Leaving Certificate subject on the timetable from Autumn 2018;
- The subject must be offered from within existing school and staffing resources. For instance, it will not be possible to apply for curricular concessions to introduce this new subject;
- Schools should reflect on the space there may be on the timetable for the new subject, taking account of other curriculum developments at senior cycle. These

include the planned availability of Computer Science as a new Leaving Certificate subject, to be introduced on a phased basis from 2018/19, and available to all schools from 2020/21, and of plans to introduce Physical Education as an examination subject within a similar timeframe;

- The school should be able to identify the teacher/s interested in teaching Politics and Society and with relevant experience and/or qualifications in this area;
- The selected teacher/s will need to be willing to participate fully in professional development;
- The school should ensure that it will have what it considers a viable number of students interested in studying the subject as part of their Leaving Certificate;
- There should be support from the Board of Management and senior leadership within the school, in consultation with the school community, for this initiative.

It will be important to consult with the teacher/s identified as being suitable, about their interest in teaching Politics and Society and their relevant qualifications and experience. The following are guidelines for the selection of teachers for this new subject.

**Typically teachers will have:**

- Expressed a genuine interest in teaching Politics and Society;
- Studied sociology, politics, philosophy, or anthropology (or related areas) as part of their primary degree or post-graduate studies;
- Relevant teaching experience of a cognate area, such as history, CSPE, economics or have experience of working in this field e.g. in Transition Year modules or projects, or have carried out research in a relevant area;
- Be willing to undertake CPD to prepare for the implementation of the specification and to investigate specific methodologies aligned with the specification.

In order to facilitate arrangements to make adequate provision for this national roll-out of the subject Politics and Society, declarations of interest are now sought. Schools are asked to complete the application form which is available at this link: [pdst.ie/sc/politicsandsociety/application](http://pdst.ie/sc/politicsandsociety/application). The form is designed to be completed jointly by the school principal and the relevant teacher/s, and will assist in the planning of professional development opportunities for teachers. The closing date for submitting your application is Friday **27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.

Further information about the new subject, Politics and Society, is also available at [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie).

Eamonn Moran (Principal Officer)  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit

