Teacher Education & the Continuing Professional Development of Teachers and School Leaders

A Short Guide to the areas of provision and the services supported by Teacher Education Section

Established in April of 2004, Teacher Education Section (TES) incorporates the work of the former In-Career Development Unit (ICDU) and includes a remit for initial teacher education, which was previously the responsibility of the Colleges Section. TES was formed to reflect the Department’s view of teacher education as a continuum from initial teacher education, to induction and continuing professional development (CPD). The rationale for the administrative change was to ensure cohesion in teacher education policy and practice in a way that would best support teachers and school leaders in the 21st Century.

The work of the Section embraces policy formulation, co-ordination, general direction and management, quality and financial control in supporting the provision of education and continuing support for teachers and school leaders throughout their careers.

The following are the main services under the aegis of the section:

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Primary.......................................................................................................................... 2
Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Post-Primary.................................................................................................................. 3
The Teaching Council .......................................................................................................................................................... 3
Reform of Teacher Education ............................................................................................................................................ 4
Teacher Induction(NIPT)/Droichead.................................................................................................................................. 5
Continuing Professional Development (CPD) .................................................................................................................. 5
Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) .................................................................................................... 6
Centre for School Leadership (CSL) ................................................................................................................................. 7
Project Maths Development Team (PMDT) ....................................................................................................................... 7
Maths Development ............................................................................................................................................................. 8
Post Graduate Programme for teachers of Mathematics ................................................................................................... 9
Teacher Professional Network Scheme (TPN scheme) ......................................................................................................... 9
Support for 2nd level Guidance Counsellors...................................................................................................................... 10
DEIS Curricular Support ..................................................................................................................................................... 10
Summer Courses Programme .............................................................................................................................................. 10
Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) ................................................................................................................... 11
Special Education Initiatives .............................................................................................................................................. 11
Boards of Management – Training ................................................................................................................................... 12
Teacher Fee Refund Scheme ............................................................................................................................................. 13
Active School Flag .............................................................................................................................................................. 13
Education Centres .............................................................................................................................................................. 14
GLOSSARY ........................................................................................................................................................................... 17
Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

Primary

There are four state funded Colleges of Education which offer primary initial teacher education courses which are recognised by the Teaching Council for primary teaching.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Web address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Ave., Dublin 9</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mie.ie">www.mie.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Immaculate College, Limerick</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mic.ul.ie">www.mic.ul.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCU Institute of Education, DCU, St. Patrick’s Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dcu.ie">www.dcu.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education, National University of Ireland Maynooth, Co Kildare</td>
<td><a href="http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie">www.maynoothuniversity.ie</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bachelor of Education Programme

A full-time course leading to a Bachelor of Education (B. Ed.) degree is held in each of the state funded Colleges of Education for primary teachers.

Persons who successfully complete the course may be registered by the Teaching Council.

Professional Masters in Education (PME) Primary Teaching

The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) offer a two year Professional Masters in Education (PME) (Primary Teaching). The most recent course commenced in September 2017. The course is reviewed annually, and if proceeding, is advertised in the national newspapers.

In addition, an on-line PME, accredited by the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), is provided by Hibernia College. Hibernia College is a privately-owned, non state-funded, company. This is a part-time blended learning course which takes place over 2 years and which is recognised by the Teaching Council for the purposes of primary teaching.

Entry Requirements

To view the most recent Bachelor of Education and post-graduate courses click on the following

- Entry Requirement CAO 2017
- Entry Requirements Professional Master of Education/Professional Masters in Education (Primary Teaching) 2017
- Entry Requirements Mature Students 2017

To be registered with the Teaching Council as a primary teacher, a person must have obtained the qualifications as set out under the following link: Teaching Council Registration

Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

Post-Primary

Post Primary Initial Teacher Education post-primary is provided through programmes of a consecutive or a concurrent nature.

The most common route to qualification is the consecutive route, which comprises a suitable degree and teacher education qualification. A suitable degree is defined as an award from a State-recognised university or similar third-level college, which enables the holder to teach at least one
curricular subject to the highest level within the Post-Primary schools curriculum. For most subjects, this is Leaving Certificate Higher Level.

A suitable initial teacher education qualification is defined as a qualification from a State recognised university or similar third-level college, incorporating three specific elements (Foundation Studies, Professional Studies and School Placement) and which is directed towards the 12 to 18 age range (First year to Sixth year). The programme must extend over at least one year of full-time study or equivalent. With effect from September 2014, postgraduate programmes of initial teacher education accredited by the Teaching Council will be extended to two years full time study or 120 ECTS credits.

The Teaching Council website Teaching Council provides details of the individual subject requirements (subject criteria) for all post-primary curricular subjects. The Teaching Council website also provides a list of degrees which have in the past been deemed to meet the requirements for named curricular subjects. Given degree programmes and elective modules within degrees can change over time, it is important that this list should only be considered as a guide.

Currently the following institutions in Ireland are providers of post primary initial teacher education programmes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Type of provision</th>
<th>Web address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University College, Cork</td>
<td>concurrent &amp; consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucc.ie">www.ucc.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University College, Dublin</td>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucd.ie">www.ucd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUI Galway</td>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nuigalway.ie">www.nuigalway.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUI Maynooth</td>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nuim.ie">www.nuim.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity College, Dublin</td>
<td>concurrent &amp; consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.tcd.ie">www.tcd.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin City University</td>
<td>concurrent</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dcu.ie">www.dcu.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
<td>concurrent &amp; consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ul.ie">www.ul.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater Dei, Dublin</td>
<td>concurrent</td>
<td><a href="http://www.materdei.ie">www.materdei.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Angela’s College, Sligo</td>
<td>concurrent</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stangelas.com">www.stangelas.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National College of Art and Design, Dublin</td>
<td>concurrent &amp; consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ncad.ie">www.ncad.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford School of Art and Design, Cork</td>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cit.ie">www.cit.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick Institute of Technology, School of Art and Design</td>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lit.ie">www.lit.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick’s College, Thurles</td>
<td>concurrent</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stpats.ie">www.stpats.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Letterfrack</td>
<td>concurrent</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gmit.ie">www.gmit.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hibernia College</td>
<td>consecutive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hiberniacollege.net">www.hiberniacollege.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Teaching Council

The Teaching Council is the professional standards body for teaching in Ireland. It was established by statute in March 2006. The purposes of the Teaching Council, as laid down in the Teaching Council Acts 2001-2015, are:

- to promote teaching as a profession
- to promote the professional development of teachers
- to maintain and improve the quality of teaching in the State
- to provide for the establishment of standards, policies and procedures for the education and training of teachers and other matters relating to teachers and the teaching profession
- to provide for the registration and regulation of teachers and
- to enhance professional standards and competence
Register of Teachers
The Teaching Council’s register stands as a verifiable expression of the standard of teaching, knowledge, skill and competence that teachers in this State aspire to have and maintain. Thus, the register is intended to act as a statement of the standards required of teachers. Over 97,000 teachers are registered to teach in primary, post primary, and further education. The register is a valuable source of information on all teachers registered to teach in State-funded schools and the registration and renewal process and fee (initial registration €90, renewal €65 annually) underpin the Council’s role as an autonomous and self-funding professional body.

To be registered, a teacher must have attained a satisfactory level of professional qualification and training. The Teaching Council reviews 70 initial teacher education programmes, registers teachers including conducting vetting and reference checks, and is responsible for the induction and probation of newly qualified teachers. Since July 2016 the Council has assumed responsibility to investigate complaints against registered teachers and, on serious matters, to enquire into a teacher’s fitness to teach.

Further information on registration can be obtained from the Teaching Council at www.teachingcouncil.ie.

Reform of Teacher Education
The Teaching Council has a range of functions relating to teacher education. These functions span the entire teaching career from entry to initial teacher education programmes, accreditation of such programmes, induction of newly qualified teachers into the profession and the continuing professional development of teachers throughout their careers.

The Council has published a Policy Paper on the Continuum of Teacher Education, which provides the framework within which it will implement its functions relating to teacher education. The document is available to download at Teacher Education - Policy on Continuum of Teacher Education

Contact Details:
The Teaching Council
Block A
Maynooth Business Campus
Maynooth
Co. Kildare
W23 Y7X0
Telephone LoCall 1890 224 224 or +353 1 6517900
E-mail info@teachingcouncil.ie
Website: Teaching Council

Teacher Induction (NIPT)/Droichead

Teacher Induction (NIPT)

The National Induction Programme for Teachers (NIPT) was established in September 2010. The induction programme evolved from a national pilot project at primary and at post-primary levels, which was initiated in 2002.

The NIPT supports the induction of newly qualified teachers (NQTs), both primary and post-primary, into the teaching profession in Ireland. A key characteristic of the programme is the support for NQTs by trained Professional Support Teams (PST) and mentors at school level.
Professional development for NQTs and PSTs is provided by the NIPT throughout the year. The NIPT provides direct support to schools by email, phone and onsite visits.

NQTs participating in the programme also receive the following school school-based induction supports: meetings with the NIPT Mentor or Professional Support Team, planning time, observation of other teachers teaching, linking with the National Services, observation and feedback and other related induction activities.

**Droichead**

The work of the Teaching Council, on behalf of the profession of teaching, in the interests of the public, is grounded in the values of professionally-led regulation, shared professional responsibility and collective professional confidence. Informed by these values, the Council has introduced a new model of induction and probation for primary and post-primary teachers called *Droichead*.

*Droichead* is a period of post-qualification professional practice for both primary and post primary teachers. The *Droichead* process supports the professional learning of NQTs during the induction phase, thus laying the foundations of subsequent professional growth and learning for the next phase of their career. *Droichead* is designed to reflect the importance of induction for new teachers when they are formally welcomed into the profession. It is grounded in the belief that the people best placed to conduct that formal welcome are experienced colleagues who know what is involved in teaching and learning in their school. These fellow professionals are themselves supported through the provision of a range of structures and resources provided by NIPT.

Key to this support is a Professional Support Team (PST) which consists of the NQTs Principal and mentor teacher in the school.

**Contact Details:**
The National Induction Programme for Teachers
Dublin West Education Centre
Old Blessington Road
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Telephone: (01) 452 8020 / (01) 452 8018
Email: info@teacherinduction.ie

Web Address: [http://www.teacherinduction.ie/](http://www.teacherinduction.ie/)

National Co-ordinator : Máirín Ní Chéileachair

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**

Provision for the CPD of school leaders and teachers includes support for

- School development planning
- School leadership and management
- Teachers of Students with Special Educational Needs
- The introduction of new and revised curriculums
- Particular projects and initiatives including those related to priority areas of education provision such as disadvantage and inclusion, positive behaviour management and language support for newcomer students.
Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)

The Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) is a cross-sectoral support service which offers professional development support to primary and post-primary teachers and school leaders. The work of the PDST contributes to school improvement by providing high quality CPD on curricular and educational issues, fostering reflective practice and ongoing development among teachers and school leaders.

PDST comprises the following teams to support teachers in line with DES strategies and ongoing curricular reform.

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Leadership
- Health and Well-Being
- Languages
- Technology in Education
- Post Primary STEM, Business and Enterprise, Transition Year and LCVP
- Post Primary Literacy, LCA, JCSP, Cultural and Environmental

Currently, the main priority areas for support for these teams are:

- Child Protection - Children First for primary and post primary schools, revised Stay Safe and Walk Tall programmes
- School Self Evaluation
- Literacy and Numeracy Strategy
- Health and Well-Being in the context of the curriculum and also the overarching framework of Healthy Ireland
- Primary Language Curriculum
- Gaeilge
- Introduction of Politics and Society at senior cycle
- Digital Strategy

This programme is administered by Dublin West Education Centre.

Contact Details:
Professional Development Service for Teachers
14 Joyce Way
Park West Business Park
Nangor Road
Clondalkin
Dublin 22

Tel: 01- 4358587;
Email: info@pdst.ie
Web Address: www.pdst.ie
Centre for School Leadership (CSL)

The Centre for School Leadership (CSL), located in Clare Education Centre, involving the Department, IPPN and NAPD, has been established on a partnership basis for an initial 3 year pilot period. DES has committed to an investment of €3m for this pilot.

The Centre is staffed by three experienced school principals who are on secondment from their schools. The CSL will become a centre of excellence for school leaders, and the partnership will have many benefits for the profession in terms of the quality of training programmes, coordination of provision, and increased accessibility.

The Centre’s responsibilities cover the continuum of professional development for school leaders, from pre-appointment training and induction of newly appointed principals, to continuing professional development throughout careers.

Priorities for the Centre include:-

- a new post graduate qualification for aspiring school leaders, drawing on best international practice and research in the professional development of school leaders
- a mentoring programme for newly appointed school principals
- coaching support for up to 400 serving principals annually
- a review and alignment of leadership programmes with Department standards and the continuum and
- the development a quality assurance framework for leadership provision.

Contact Details:
Centre for School Leadership
Clare Education Centre
Government Offices
Kilrush Road
Ennis
Co Clare

Tel: 065 6845510
Email: office@cslireland.ie
Web Address: www.cslireland.ie

Project Maths Development Team (PMDT)

Project Maths is a ground-breaking curriculum development initiative in post-primary Mathematics. The project, scheduled to run from 2008 to at least 2013, sees the incremental development of revised syllabuses in Junior and Leaving Certificate Mathematics alongside a significant programme of teacher professional development. The project will implement syllabus change in post-primary mathematics on a phased basis, initially in a small group of pilot schools. Syllabus revision is informed by classroom experience and changes in assessment are aligned with and underpin changes in syllabuses.

The project has been established by the Department of Education and Skills in collaboration with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) who are leading the implementation of the project.

Teacher professional development is provided by the Project Maths Development Team (PMDT) working in collaboration with the officers of the NCCA.
Maths Development

Continued roll out of Project Maths

Background:
Teacher professional development is provided by the Maths Development Team (MDT) to support the implementation of the revised mathematics curriculum, Project Maths\(^1\). From September 2016 the service has been staffed by a National Coordinator, and a team of 2 Regional Development Officers. From September 2017 the Maths Development Team Support Service will be integrated into a new PDST STEM team.

The importance of improving the quality of mathematics education is emphasised in the recently published STEM Education in the Irish School System which identifies mathematics as a foundation stone for all STEM education but also notes that Irish students find tasks which assess higher-order thinking skills in mathematics particularly difficult.

Current Position:
Seminars, and workshops have been offered to all 6,000 teachers of mathematics since 2008. Four National Maths Counts Conferences have been held. The work continues, based on a revised, improved development-of-teaching model, drawing on experience in Asia of peer-led reflections on practice, and with continuing support for improvement through resource development, school visits and online support.

The Action Plan for Education 2016-2019 identifies the following requirements to meet its objective of Ireland matching the best performers internationally:

- to increase the proportion of students taking the higher-level mathematics examination in Junior Cycle from 55% in 2015 to 60% in 2020.
- to increase the proportion of students taking the higher level mathematics examination in Leaving Certificate from 27% in 2015 to 30% in 2020
- for PISA, to increase the proportion of students at Level 5 or above from 11% (OECD average 13%) to above the OECD average by 2025
- for PISA, to decrease the proportion of students performing below Level 2 from 16.9% (OECD average 23.1%) to less than 10% by 2025
- for PISA, consolidate Ireland’s position in the top-10 performing OECD countries

Professional development/ongoing teacher learning is central to successfully achieving these goals. This will entail continuing to develop Reflections on Practice and other models of teacher learning, continuing to disseminate teacher learning through national conferences and online

\(^1\) See also Curriculum and Assessment Policy Section note.
resources; the provision of workshops for newly qualified teachers (NQTs); and, through its model of school visits, continuing to develop whole-maths-department collaborative CPD supporting School Self-Evaluation.

Contact Details:
Maths Development Team
Drumcondra Education Centre
Drumcondra
Dublin 9
Tel: 01 857 6400
Fax: 01 857 6499
Web Address: www.projectmaths.ie
E-mail: grainneh@ecdrumcondra.ie

Post Graduate Programme for teachers of Mathematics

Background:
One finding of the report of the Project Maths Implementation Support Group was that teachers must have sufficient mathematical knowledge to develop and support good mathematics teaching for every pupil. Given that "teaching for understanding" is a major objective in Project Maths, it is important that intensive courses for teachers are made available to up-skill the profession.

The report advised that the course should provide teachers with content knowledge of second level mathematics along with appropriate pedagogical strategies in line with the Project Maths initiative which help teachers in identifying learning needs, responding to pupils' questions, choosing useful examples, planning lessons, choosing textbooks, and assessing pupils' learning.

Current Position:
The Department reviewed these requirements and following a tendering process a two-year part-time blended programme has been made available, since 2012, free of charge, by a consortium led by the University of Limerick and provided jointly with National University of Ireland Galway though their strategic alliance. The programme is designed specifically to enable "out of field" teachers of mathematics to upskill to a sufficient standard to have mathematics added to their registration with the Teaching Council.

Some 715 teachers have graduated from the programme, 280 are currently participating and funding has been made available for a further 200 teacher students to begin in 2017.

Teacher Professional Network Scheme (TPN scheme)
The Department has established a scheme to provide supplementary funding to support the work of teacher professional networks generally, including those focusing on subjects and specific programmes (e.g. Subject Associations). Blackrock Education Centre is responsible for the administration of the scheme. Full details on the TPN Supplementary Funding Scheme are available on the Blackrock Education Centre TPN website and also on the Blackrock Education Centre website.

Contact Details:
The TPN Administrator
Blackrock Education Centre
Kill Ave
Support for 2nd level Guidance Counsellors

The support mainly takes the form of a range of regional peer professional support groups which are facilitated by supervisors. In addition to the peer supervision groups, an annual in service seminar is part funded which allows for guidance counsellors to access continuing professional development. Contribution is also made to a range of in-service activities throughout the year. This programme is administered by Monaghan Education Centre.

Contact Details:
Guidance Counsellor Supervision
Monaghan Education Centre
Knockaconny
Armagh Road
Monaghan

Tel: 047-74000
Fax: 047-74010
Email: info@metc.ie
Web Address: www.metc.ie

DEIS Curricular Support

The Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS) Plan for 2017 sets out the Departments vision for future intervention in the critical area of social inclusion in education policy.

In its initial application, the new identification model has identified that there are schools in disadvantaged areas, not previously included in DEIS, whose level of disadvantage is significantly higher than many schools already in the programme. The first step is to include these schools in the DEIS School Support Programme. The School Support Programme will bring together, and build upon, existing interventions, including those in the primary sector, in schools with a concentrated level of disadvantage. Under the DEIS action plan, the PDST provides support to teachers in DEIS schools that enables them to implement programmes such as Maths Recovery, First Steps and Reading Recovery.

Summer Courses Programme

The main objective of summer courses is the advancement of teachers' pedagogic and management skills, in the context of the work of the primary and/or post-primary school. The scheme for the summer course programme is administered by Drumcondra Education Centre on behalf of the Department.

Contact Details:
Summer Courses Programme
Drumcondra Education Centre
Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP)

The Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP), introduced in 1996, is particularly targeted at junior cycle (lower secondary) students who are identified as being at risk of early school leaving. There are 231 schools in JCSP, of which 176 are DEIS schools. There are 30 librarians working in 30 DEIS post primary schools in order to support the JCSP Demonstration Library programme. It is planned to undertake a review of the JCSP, which will take account of changes as a result of the Framework for Junior Cycle and the operation of the JCSP to date, including the JCSP Library Project element. The needs of DEIS schools will be considered, within this review.

Library / school partnerships have been established under the National Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life (2011-2020) to engage young learners with an important local resource, including those from DEIS Schools.

The DES review of the Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP), including the JCSP library services, should take account of the ongoing needs of DEIS schools.

Contact Details:
Junior Certificate School Programme
Curriculum Development Unit
City of Dublin ETB
Sundrive Road
Dublin 12

Tel: 01 - 453 5487
Fax: 01 - 402 0435
Email: jcsp@iol.ie
Web Address: www.slss.ie

Special Education Initiatives

Continuing Professional Development for Primary & Post-Primary Teachers provided by Third Level Institutions

Teacher Education Section of the Department funds the provision of a number of Special Education programmes through third level institutions, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Type of SEN provision</th>
<th>Web address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National University of Ireland</td>
<td>Combined Post –Graduate Diploma Programme(1)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nuigalway.ie">www.nuigalway.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Further details available at www.nuigalway.ie
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

- Combined Post – Graduate Diploma Programme(1)

St. Angela’s College, Sligo

- Combined Post – Graduate Diploma Programme(1)
- Post-Graduate Certificate/Diploma Programme of CPD in Special Educational Needs (ASD) for Teachers

Dublin City University, Institute of Education, DCU St Patrick’s Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

- Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Combined Post – Graduate Diploma Programme(1)
- Induction courses for teachers of pupils with Severe & Profound General Learning Disabilities

University College Cork

- Combined Post – Graduate Diploma Programme(1)

University College Dublin

- Combined Post – Graduate Diploma Programme(1)

(1) Combined Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Teachers involved in Learning Support and Special Education

Boards of Management – Training

In recognition of the responsibility which the Education Act confers on Boards of Management and the increasingly complex environment in which they must operate, Teacher Education Section has developed a scheme for the provision of support to school management bodies for the purposes of the training and development of Boards of Management in the discharge of their duties. Drumcondra Education Centre is responsible for the administration of the scheme.

Contact Details:
Drumcondra Education Centre
Drumcondra
Dublin 9

Contact Details:
Tel: 01-857 6400
Fax: 01-857 6499
Email: info@ecdrumcondra.ie
Web Address: www.ecdrumcondra.ie
Teacher Fee Refund Scheme

The Teacher Fee Refund Scheme is administered by Marino Institute of Education on behalf of the DES. The purpose of the Teacher Fee Refund Scheme is to provide funding towards the cost of course and examination fees incurred by primary and post-primary teachers in undertaking career development courses approved by the DES and school authorities. Approved refunds are payable on the successful completion of the approved course concerned.

Contact Details:
The Administrator
Refund of Fees Scheme
St. Patrick’s
Marino Institute of Education
Griffith Avenue
Dublin 9

Tel: 01 - 853 5102;
E-mail: refundoffeescheme@mie.ie
Web address: www.mie.ie

Active School Flag

The Active School Awards initiative was introduced in 2004. Its main aim is to raise the profile of Physical Education and co-curricular physical activity in the context of the introduction of the PE primary curriculum and the Junior Certificate PE syllabus and to promote lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity. In 2009 the Initiative was changed from an Awards format to a non-competitive flag format which gives schools the opportunity to raise awareness of the value of Physical Education and to identify, acknowledge and recognise best practice in the promotion of quality physical education.

The Active School Flag (ASF) is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. The process aims to get more schools, more active, more often.

Schools wishing to achieve the ASF begin the process by self-evaluating their current provision across 3 areas: Physical Education, Physical Activity and Partnerships. Schools must also organise an Active School Week programme and commit to having it as part of their annual school calendar. When awarded a flag it remains valid for a period of 3 years after which time schools will be invited to re-apply.

Contact Details:
Active School Awards
Mayo Education Centre
Westport Road
Castlebar Road
Co.Mayo

Tel: 094-902 0700
Fax: 094-902 0720
Email: eolas@activeschoolflag.ie
Web Address: http://www.activeschoolflag.ie/
Education Centres

The nationwide network of Education Centres (21 full-time and 9 part-time), are key partners in the provision of teacher CPD. Under the remit of the Department the centres host the national programmes of curriculum reform and the support services which work on a range of issues relating to teaching and learning. They also provide a range of supports to address identified needs of teachers and schools in their various catchment areas.

The Association of Teachers/Education Centres in Ireland (ATECI www.ateci.ie ) is the representative body for the Education Centre Network.

Contact Details for Full Time Education Centres:

Athlone Education Centre
• Tel: 090 – 642 0400; Fax: 090 -647 6501
• Email: info@athloneeducationcentre.com
• Web Address www.athloneeducationcentre.com

Blackrock Education Centre
• Tel: 01 - 236 5000; Fax: 01 - 236 5050
• Email: bec@blackrockec.ie;
• Web Address: www.blackrockec.ie

Carrick-on-Shannon Education Centre
• Tel: 071 - 962 0383 Fax; 071 - 962 1471
• Email carrickeducentre@eircom.net;
• Web Address: www.carrickedcentre.ie

Clare Education Centre
• Tel: 065 – 684 5500; Fax: 065 – 684 2930
• Email: director@clareed.ie
• Web Address: www.clareed.ie

Cork Education Support Centre
• Tel: 021 - 425 5600 ; Fax:021 - 425 4245
• Email: office@cesc.ie;
• Web Address: www.cesc.ie

Donegal Education Centre
• Tel: 074 - 97 23487; Fax: 074- 97 23787
• Email: dglec@eircom.net
• Web Address: www.donegaleccentre.ie

Drumcondra Education Centre
• Tel: 01 – 857 6400; Fax: 01 – 857 6499
• Email: info@ecdrumcondra.ie;
• Web Address: www.ecdrumcondra.ie

Dublin West Education Centre
• Tel: 01 - 452 8000; Fax: 01 – 452 8010
• Email: info@dwe.ie;
Galway Education Centre
- Tel: 091 – 74 5600; Fax: 091 – 74 5618
- Email: info@galwayec.ie
- Web Address: www.galwayec.ie

Kildare Education Centre
- Tel: 045 – 53 0200; Fax: 045 – 53 0237
- Email: office@eckildare.ie;
- Web Address: www.eckildare.ie

Kilkenny Education Centre
- Tel: 056 – 776 0200; Fax: 056 – 776 0250
- Email: kecsec@eircom.net;
- Web Address: www.eckilkenny.ie

Laois Education Centre
- Tel: 057– 8672400; Fax: 057 – 86661137
- Email: info@laoisedcentre.ie
- Web Address: www.laoisedcentre.ie

Limerick Education Centre
- Tel: 061 – 58 5060; Fax: 061 – 58 5061
- Email: info@lec.ie;
- Web Address: www.lec.ie

Mayo Education Centre
- Tel: 094 – 902 0700; Fax: 094 – 902 0720
- Email: eolas@mayoeducationcentre.ie
- Web Address: www.mayoeducationcentre.ie

Monaghan Education Centre
- Tel: 047 – 7 4000; Fax: 047 – 7 4010
- Email: info@metc.ie
- Web Address: www.metc.ie

Navan Education Centre
- Tel: 046 – 906 7040; Fax: 046 – 906 7065
- Email: info@ecnavan.ie;
- Web Address: www.ecnavan.ie

Sligo Education Centre
- Tel: 071 – 913 8700; Fax: 071 – 913 8767
- Email: info@ecsligo.ie
- Web Address: www ecsligo.ie

Tralee Education Centre
- Tel: 066 – 719 5000; Fax: 066 – 719 5091
- Email: edcentretralee@eircom.net;
- Web Address: www.edcentretralee.ie

Waterford Teachers’ Centre
- Tel: 051 – 31 1000; Fax 051 – 31 1050
West Cork Education Centre
• Tel: 023 – 885 6756 ; Fax: 023 – 885 6752
• Email: wcecentre@eircom.net
• Web Address: www.westcorkeducationcentre.com

Wexford Education Centre
• Tel: 053 – 923 9100 ; Fax: 053 – 923 9124
• Email: info@ecwexford.ie;
• Web Address: www.ecwexford.ie

Contact Details for Part Time Education Centres:

Carlow Education Centre
• Tel: 087-2079448; Fax: 059 – 913 5404
• Email: cec@iol.ie
• Web Address: www.eccarlow.ie

Cavan Education Centre
• Tel: 049 – 433 2259; Fax: 049 – 433 2259
• Email: info@cavanec.ie
• Web Address: www.cavanec.ie

Ionad Oideachais Chorca Dhuibhne
• Tel: 066 – 915 1866; Fax: 066 – 915 1866
• Email: iocdad@eircom.net

Ionad Múinteoirí, Connamara & Arainn
• Tel: 087 7916876
• Email: imchonamara@hotmail.com

Dundalk Education Centre
• Tel: 086-7707400; Fax: 042 – 933 0309
• Email: infodundalk@gmail.com

Ionad Oideachais Ghort a’Choirce
• Tel: 074 – 916 5556; Fax: 074 – 916 5556
• Email: Inmr@eircom.net

Co Tipperary Education Support Centre
• Tel : 086-6008860
• Email: info@tippec.ie
• Website : www.tippec.ie

Tarbert Education Centre
• Tel: 069 60005 or 087 9310233
• Email: info@tarbertesc.ie
• Website : www.tarbertesc.ie

Tuam Education Centre
• Tel: 093 - 2 5877; Fax: 093 - 2 5960
• Email: tuamedcentre@eircom.net
• Website : www.tuamec.ie
GLOSSARY
ASF – Active School Flag
ATECI - Association of Teachers/Education Centres in Ireland
BoM – Boards Of Management
CPD – Continuing Professional Development
DEIS – Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DES – Department of Education and Skills
ITE - Initial Teacher Education
JCSP - Junior Certificate School Programme
NIPT – National Induction Programme for Teachers
NQTs – Newly Qualified Teachers
PMDT - Project Maths Development Team
RSE – Relationships and Sexuality Education
SEN – Special Education Needs
SPHE – Social, Personal Health Education
TES – Teacher Education Section
TPN Scheme – Teacher Professional Network Scheme
TY – Transition Year