

The Development of the **Primary Online Database** (POD)

Owner and brief history

- ▶ Statistics Section within the Department of Education and Skills in conjunction with IT section are developing the Primary Online Database (POD)
- ▶ Plans for such a database have been in place for many years, following on from the introduction of an individualised database at post-primary level in the 1990s
- ▶ Recent advancements in technology including the introduction of the Esinet portal, reduced costs and the availability of in-house project management expertise, have assisted in creating an environment in which implementation of the primary pupil database can proceed
- ▶ Earlier attempts may have failed by trying to do too much at once

What

- ▶ POD will collect individual information on each pupil, including their PPSN
- ▶ POD is a centralised, live system allowing for the updating of information throughout the year
- ▶ POD will replace the need for schools to return the National School Annual Census
- ▶ POD will negate the need for schools to complete the Clárleabhar
- ▶ Schools will have access to update DES centrally-held school level data such as School Name, Address and Telephone Number

Variables to be collected and who we have consulted with

- Variables to be collected
 - PPSN
 - Pupil Forename
 - Pupil Surname
 - Birth Cert Name
 - Pupil Address
 - County
 - DOB
 - Gender
 - Mother's Maiden Name (necessary for PPSN validation)

- ▶ Ethnic or Cultural Background
- ▶ Nationality
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Receipt of Low-Incidence Support through the NCSE
- ▶ Receipt of Learning Support under the GAM
 - ▶ Learning Support
 - ▶ Mild/Borderline-Mild GLD Resource Teaching
 - ▶ Specific Learning Disability
 - ▶ EAL
- ▶ Does the child have a psychological or medical assessment report which recommends provision of an additional teaching resource?

- ▶ Year of Arrival in Ireland (non-Irish nationals only)
- ▶ Mother Tongue (English or Irish)
- ▶ Repeating a Year
- ▶ Integrated into Mainstream Class (special classes only)
- ▶ Second-level Subject (special schools only)

Consultations

- ▶ Consulted with sections within the Department including
 - ▶ Teacher Allocations
 - ▶ Social Inclusion
 - ▶ Special Education
 - ▶ Schools Capital Appraisal
 - ▶ Forward Planning
 - ▶ Curriculum and Assessment Policy
 - ▶ The Inspectorate

Consultations with agencies

- NCSE
- NEWB

Outside bodies consulted with

- ▶ Management Bodies including
 - ▶ IPPN
 - ▶ CPSMA
 - ▶ COI Board of Education
 - ▶ Muslim Board of Education
 - ▶ An Foras Pátrúnachta
 - ▶ Educate Together
 - ▶ National Association of Boards of Management in Special Education
- ▶ National Parents Council
- ▶ Software Providers
- ▶ DSP (PPSN validation)
- ▶ DPC
 - ▶ Key message from DPC - we have a clear reason for collecting PPSN
 - ▶ Have issued a Fair Processing Notice informing schools of their roles as data controllers and in relation to the issue of gaining parental consent
 - ▶ Retention policy

Benefits

- Collecting data at an individualised pupil level gives a richer dataset
- Will identify who does not make the progression to post-primary
- Will provide more accurate identification of pupils with SEN
- Better data will allow for more equitable distribution of resources
- Data will be available faster than with the current data collection system
- Only Statistics Section will have access to the individualised data
- Will provide reports at an aggregate level
- How will schools benefit? Possibility of using POD as an administrative data system. Longer term - it will allow for more streamlined collection of data on students

How

- ▶ Schools will access POD through Esinet
- ▶ This will be based on the same technology as the Online Claim System
- ▶ POD is a centralised, live system allowing for the updating of information throughout the year
- ▶ Will allow for synchronisation with existing administrative software if this is in place in schools


In practice

- ▶ Have provided a template to allow the bulk loading of this data
- ▶ Have also met with software providers to discuss this (approximately half of the schools use a software provider)
- ▶ Will allow for data that is entered in POD to be synchronised back into local software

How - pilot

- A number of pilot schools (up to 100) have been identified and we will collect data from them in two ways
- Those who use one of the seven identified software providers will provide data to use in an agreed template. The other schools will have the option of providing data using the template or of keying the data directly to POD
- Data will then be edited and cleaned, data will not be keyed twice, this will be synchronised to the local system by their software providers

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 Primary Online Data


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Add New Entrant

School Roll No 60260P, ST JOSEPH OF CLUNY SECONDARY SCHOOL
* Indicates required information

Forename* Surname* DOB*

Personal

Gender* Religion

Birth Certificate Forename* Birth Certificate Surname*

Address 1*
 Address 2*
 Address 3
 Address 4

County* Nationality*

Is one of the pupil's mother tongues Irish or English?

Ethnic or cultural background

Mother's Maiden Name* OR PPSN*

Irish Exemption
 Irish Exemption

When operational

- Data will be rolled over (i.e. junior infants rolled over to senior infants etc.)
- Schools will only have to enter new entrants and indicate which pupils have left the schools and their destination
- Issues to be addressed will include
 - Multiple enrolments (same pupil cannot be enrolled in two schools)
 - Inter-school transfers (will be dealt with at school level)
 - Amalgamations
 - Reports
 - Updating of school-level information
 - Pre-enrolment

Time frame

- ▶ Pilot schools enter existing pupil data - April 2014 to June 2014 (standardised template for data or manually enter)
- ▶ Pilot schools enter new entrants - September 2014
- ▶ A National School Annual Census Return for 2014/2015 will also be required from the schools participating in the pilot (dual reporting)
- ▶ All schools enter existing pupil data – October 2014 to February 2015
- ▶ All schools enter new entrants - September 2015
- ▶ A National School Annual Census Return for 2015/2016 will also be required from all schools (bar the pilot schools) for this period

Live database 2015/2016 – what will happen

- Data will be rolled over – students will progress from junior to senior infants to first class etc.
- We will then only collect data on entrants and leavers
- We will generate an Annual Census Return from the data entered in the system
- We will be able to deal with multiple and dual enrolments
- Inter-school transfers, school amalgamations, PPSN data-matching process
- Creation of reports for schools and DES