

Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (Not for Examination)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. When will the new Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework be available in schools?

Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (the Framework) is available to all schools to support the planning of quality physical education in senior cycle. The PDST are providing professional development support for Phase 1 schools from September 2018.

The Framework will replace the guidelines set out in the Rules and Programmes for Secondary Schools which currently forms the basis for PE at Senior Cycle. A further communication will be issued in this regard early in the 2019/20 school year.

2. How were Phase 1 schools selected?

Phase 1 of the implementation process involves a small cohort of schools who were identified as having capacity to introduce the Framework.

Schools were selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- support from the Board of Management and senior leadership within the school, in consultation with the school community, for this initiative;
- a willingness to offer the Framework on the timetable from September 2018;
- the school could identify a teacher (or teachers) with qualifications recognised by the Teaching Council to teach physical education and who are willing to teach the Framework and participate in professional development within school time;
- a willingness among participating teachers to attend some professional development in their own time was demonstrated;
- a viable number of students prepared to study the Framework were identified.

3. What resources will be required in my school to be able to provide the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework?

Typically, schools will have:

- access to a sports hall/suitable indoor space and/or outdoor playing area;
- classroom space;
- internet access in the sports hall/indoor space will be an important addition to support learning and assessment in the Framework. Access to digital technology (school devices or student's personal devices);
- An up-to-date Acceptable Usage Policy (AUP).

4. What qualifications/experience do I need to have to be able to teach the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework?

Typically, teachers will have:

- A relevant qualification recognised by the Teaching Council to teach physical education

5. What time allocation will be required to teach the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework?

The Framework is designed to be taught over the two or three years of senior cycle education. It is recommended that a double period or its equivalent per week is made available as a minimum requirement for teaching the Framework.

6. Will this new subject attract CAO points?

No, the Framework will not be assessed as part of the Leaving Certificate examination.

7. Where can I access a copy of the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework?

The Framework is available on the NCCA website on www.curriculumonline.ie

8. Will there be opportunities for professional development?

Subject specific professional development is available through the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) for schools participating in Phase 1. This professional development is supporting schools in using ICT for teaching, learning and assessment and to align their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) with the appropriate use of ICT in the Framework.

Details of CPD for schools not participating in Phase 1 will be communicated in due course.

9. What is the difference between the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework and Leaving Certificate Physical Education?

Physical education in senior cycle is provided for in two ways: The Framework provides a planning tool for physical education for all students in senior cycle and will not be assessed as part of the Leaving Certificate examination. LCPE is an optional subject that learners study and are examined in, as part of the Leaving Certificate, with CAO points allocated accordingly.

10. Will learning in Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework be assessed?

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning in the Framework. Ongoing assessment allows students to make their learning visible so that they can receive ongoing formative feedback about how to improve their participation, performance and learning in the Framework. By taking greater

responsibility for their own learning students can develop the skills necessary for lifelong, self-directed participation in physical activity.

The Framework also provides the possibility of using portfolios to support assessment. Students can gather evidence of progression in their learning and performance in the Framework as they complete ongoing assessment activities. Portfolios can be either paper based or digital depending on the particular circumstances of the school. More detailed advice on the use of portfolios to support assessment in the Framework are outlined in the curriculum document.

Assessment will be school based and not for examination purposes.

11. Are there data protection issues for consideration by schools?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on the 25th May 2018, replacing the existing data protection framework under the EU Data Protection Directive. Schools should examine their existing Data Protection Policies and Retention Schedules to ensure these are adequate to cater for the envisaged processing of personal data.

An interactive resource on GDPR for schools is available www.gdpr4schools.ie.

Further information is also available at www.dataprotectionschools.ie.

12. How will the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework be timetabled?

The timetabling of the Framework will be a matter for the school to decide.

13. Can students who are taking the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework also participate in LCPE?

The Framework is designed to support teachers in planning quality learning in Physical Education for all students in senior cycle and will not be assessed as part of the Leaving Certificate examination. The Framework will assist schools to design a PE programme for Senior Cycle students, including students who do and do not elect to take PE as a subject for their Leaving Certificate examination.

14. Will students with disabilities be able to participate in the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework?

The Framework is designed around six curriculum models. Each of these models provide the flexibility for the physical education teacher to plan for learning in an inclusive and meaningful way for all students.

15. What resources are available to support the implementation of the Framework?

Resources are available on both the [NCCA's website \(www.ncca.ie\)](http://www.ncca.ie) and the PDST's website (www.pdst.ie).

16. What peer to peer supports are available for teachers?

A wide range of Teacher Professional Networks (TPNs) are funded by the Department of Education and Skills via Blackrock Education Centre. The Physical Education Association of Ireland (PEAI) provides supports for teachers of physical education, including LCPE and SCPE, under the TPN scheme.

A full list of Teacher Professional Networks is available at <http://www.tpnetworks.ie/>.