

# **Leaving Certificate Physical Education (Optional subject for examination in the Leaving Certificate)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. When will the new subject Leaving Certificate Physical Education be available in schools?**

Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) will be available on a phased basis starting with a group of schools in September 2018 (Phase 1).

Arrangements in relation to Phase 2 implementation of Leaving Certificate Physical Education and the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework will be communicated to schools in due course.

### **2. When will students sit the first examination in Leaving Certificate Physical Education?**

Students participating in Phase 1 will sit the first examination in LCPE in June 2020.

### **3. How will schools be selected?**

Phase 1 of the implementation process will involve a small cohort of schools who have the capacity to introduce Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate subject.

Schools will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- There is 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 Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate subject on the time-table from September 2018;
- The school can identify a teacher (or teachers) with qualifications recognised by the Teaching Council for the teaching of the subject who are willing to teach Physical Education and participate in professional development within school time;
- There is a willingness among participating teachers to participate in some professional development in their own time;
- A viable number of students interested in studying Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate subject;
- The school is confident that it meets the necessary ICT requirements to deliver Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate subject

### **4. What resources will be required in my school to be able to provide the subject?**

Typically, schools will have:

- Access to computers and recording equipment
- Access to a sports hall/suitable indoor space and outdoor playing area
- Classroom space
- Access to digital technology (school devices or student's personal devices)
- An up to date AUP\*
- Internet access in the sports hall/indoor space will be an important addition to support learning and assessment in LCPE.

**5. What qualifications/experience do I need to have to be able to teach the subject?**

Typically, teachers will have:

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

**6. How many hours contact time will be required to teach the subject?**

LCPE is designed for 180 hours of class contact time.

**7. Will this new subject attract CAO points?**

Yes, the CAO points allocation for LCPE will be the same as for all Leaving Certificate subjects and will follow the Leaving Certificate 8-point grading scale.

**8. Where can I access a copy of the specification?**

The LCPE specification is available on the NCCA website at [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

**9. Will there be opportunities for professional development?**

Yes, subject specific professional development will be available through the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) for schools selected to participate in Phase 1. Details of the professional development programme will be available after the selection process has been completed. This Professional Development will also aim to support schools in using ICT for teaching, learning and assessment and to align their Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) with the appropriate use of ICT in LCPE

**10. How will the subject be assessed?**

There are three assessment components in LCPE:

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Physical Activity Project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance Assessment	30%	Common
Written paper	50%	Higher and Ordinary

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

Physical education in senior cycle is provided for in two ways: LCPE is an optional subject that learners study and are examined in, as part of the Leaving Certificate, with CAO points allocated accordingly.

The SCPE 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.

**12. When will the assessment guidelines be made available?**

The Assessment Guidelines will be available at the end of January 2018.

### **13. What data protection issues arise in LCPE?**

ICT is an essential element of teaching, learning and assessment in LCPE. Learners will be capturing and storing images of themselves and others participating in a range of physical activities.

The personal data of learners will be processed by schools as part of LCPE for the following purposes:

- To facilitate students' learning through the analysis of video recordings/photographs of their performances,
- To facilitate the processing of data as part of Physical Activity Project and Performance Assessment components which form part of the state examination together with a separate written paper.

The Department of Education and Skills, in partnership with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and State Examinations Commission, and in consultation with a number of schools is currently undertaking a Data Protection Impact Assessment for the proposed processing. It is anticipated that this process will help identify any data protection issues that may need to be addressed. Following this process relevant guidance, including model privacy notices for processing PE related personal data, will be provided to participating schools.

Schools themselves, however, in advance, should examine their existing Data Protection Policies and Retention Schedules to ensure these are adequate to cater for the envisaged processing of personal data, in particular the use of video recordings for the above purposes. Schools may wish to review how the access to and security of any personal data, particularly in the form of videos and photos, is currently managed or may be managed in the future within their school.

### **14. How will LCPE be timetabled?**

The timetabling of LCPE will be a matter for the school to decide. LCPE is designed to be taught in a minimum of 180 hours in total over the two years of fifth and sixth year. It is recommended that of the five suggested class periods a week a double period per week should be included to facilitate learners' active participation in the three physical activities. Learning associated with the specification may occur in practical settings beyond the school. It is important, therefore, that timetable arrangements reflect this.

### **15. Can students who are taking LCPE also participate in SCPE?**

Schools will decide whether students who are studying LCPE can also participate in SCPE.

### **16. Will students with disabilities be able to participate in the Leaving Certificate Physical Education?**

LCPE is an inclusive specification designed to facilitate the participation of all students including those with disabilities. Both coursework assessments are sufficiently flexible to ensure that no student is disadvantaged because of a disability. For example, the Physical Activity Project can be completed in an activity of the learner's choice and they choose the performance goals that are appropriate for them to focus on.

