

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 (SCPE) 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. How will schools be selected?

Phase 1 of the implementation process will involve a small cohort of schools who have the capacity to introduce the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework.

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 the Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework on the timetable from September 2018;
- The school can identify a teacher (or teachers) with qualifications recognised by the Teaching Council to teach physical education and who are willing to teach SCPE and participate in professional development within school time;
- There is a willingness among participating teachers to attend some professional development in their own time.
- A viable number of students prepared to study Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework;

3. What resources will be required in my school to be able to provide the subject?

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 SCPE. Access to digital technology (school devices or student's personal devices)
- An up to date AUP*

4. 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

5. What time allocation will be required to teach the subject?

SCPE is designed to be taught over the two or three years of senior cycle education. It is recommended that a double period per week (approximately 80 minutes) is made available as the

minimum requirement for teaching Senior Cycle Physical Education. Where possible, timetable arrangements should facilitate learning opportunities associated with physical education in practical settings beyond the school.

6. Will this new subject attract CAO points?

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

7. Where can I access a copy of the specification?

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

8. 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

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 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. 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 SCPE. 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 SCPE. 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 in SCPE. Students can gather evidence of progression in their learning and performance in SCPE 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 SCPE 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?

ICT is potentially an important additional element to support teaching, learning and assessment in SCPE. This could involve learners capturing and storing images of themselves and others participating in a range of physical activities. It could also involve learners completing ongoing assessment activities using video and photography.

Where ICT is used in SCPE, the personal data of learners will be processed by schools as part of SCPE to facilitate students' learning through the use of ICT which may include capturing images of performance in different physical activities.

The Department in partnership with the NCCA 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 provide 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 manged in the future within their school.

12. How will the SCPE Framework be timetabled?

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

13. Can students who are taking SCPE also participate in LCPE?

Schools will decide whether students who are participating in SCPE can also study LCPE.

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

Senior Cycle Physical Education 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.