



Primary Curriculum Framework – Initial Information

A Phríomhoide, a chara,

As you may be aware the *primary school curriculum* has been the subject of review and redevelopment in recent years. This work has presented an exciting opportunity to take stock of the initiatives and programmes in our schools and to consider how the curriculum can best support principals, teachers, children and parents as we move further into the 21st century.

The current curriculum is over 20 years old and much has changed in our world and our classrooms since the late 1990s. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) through a collaborative approach, informed by research, sustained work with school communities, wide consultation, and extensive deliberation has advised the Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, on the future direction of curriculum in primary and special schools. The voices from the consultation, in particular, indicate the need for a curriculum that supports all children, celebrating children's current childhood experiences, and looking to their futures and what might be.

The *Primary Curriculum Framework* will be launched by the Minister in the coming weeks. This concise document is for all primary and special schools and provides the blueprint for guiding the enhancement of primary and special education.

This is the first time primary and special schools will have a curriculum framework underpinning learning, teaching and assessment in their schools. The framework sets out the vision, principles and components of a redeveloped Primary School Curriculum. It reflects our shared understanding of, and trust in, the many positive features of education in our primary and special schools, while also providing for the enhancement of learning, teaching and assessment. As developments progress, new curriculum specifications will be developed for the five curriculum areas and their associated subjects and these will be available for the 2025/2026 school year. The *Primary Curriculum Framework* links with learning experiences provided through the themes of *Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework* and connects with the *Framework for Junior Cycle*.

What is in the *Primary Curriculum Framework*?

The framework:

- is for all primary and special schools
- sets the vision and principles for a redeveloped curriculum
- introduces key competencies for children's learning



- sets out the main features and components for the full redevelopment of the Primary School Curriculum, detailing curriculum areas and subjects; and time allocations
- introduces and expands aspects of learning including STEM Education, Modern Foreign Languages, Technology, and a broader Arts Education
- holds increased emphasis on existing areas such as Physical Education and Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), and digital learning
- provides greater agency and flexibility for teachers and children.

A circular will issue from the Department in March providing further detail relating to the *Primary Curriculum Framework* to include information 'where to start' with the framework and on support for schools leaders and teachers.

The Framework will be available online from the date of launch with a copy of the framework document for each principal and teacher distributed to schools following the launch.

We appreciate that this curriculum change will take time and effort. It will also take support, and the Department, together with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (becoming Oide from September 2023), and the National Council for Special Education, will be working on providing guidance and professional learning opportunities in the coming years. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment will also be developing toolkits to support teachers in using the curriculum. We are also aware of the need for sustained communications to all members of the school community throughout this change process and the Department are working to put into action a comprehensive communications strategy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank school leaders, teachers and all school staff for your commitment to educating our children to the highest standards over recent decades. Your professionalism is very much appreciated by the Department of Education.

Evelyn O'Connor

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An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

7 February 2023



Creatchuraclam na Bunscoile – Eolas Tosaigh

A Phríomhoide, a chara,

Mar is eol duit, tá *curaclam na bunscoile* ina ábhar athbhreithnithe agus athfhorbartha le blianta beaga anuas. Chuir an obair sin deis spreagúil ar fáil chun machnamh a dhéanamh ar na tionscnaimh agus ar na cláir inár scoileanna agus breithniú a dhéanamh ar an mbealach is fearr is féidir leis an gcuraclam tacú le príomhoidí, múinteoirí, leanaí agus tuismitheoirí agus muid ag bogadh níos faide isteach sa 21ú haois.

Tá an curaclam reatha os cionn 20 bliain ar an bhfód agus tá mórán athruithe ar ár saol agus ar ár seomraí ranga ó dheireadh na 1990idí. Tá comhairle curtha ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta (CNCM), trí chur chuige comhoibríoch, bunaithe ar thaighde, obair leanúnach le pobail scoile, comhairliúchán forleathan, agus plé fairsing, ar an Aire Oideachais Norma Foley TD, maidir le treo an churaclaim i mbunscoileanna agus i scoileanna speisialta amach anseo. Léiríonn na guthanna ón gcomhairliúchán, go háirithe, an gá atá le curaclam a thacaíonn le gach leanbh, a cheiliúránn eispéiris reatha leanaí le linn a n-óige agus a fhéachann i dtreo a dtodhchaí agus na féidearthachtaí atá ann di.

Seolfar *Creatchuraclam na Bunscoile* sna seachtainí seo amach romhainn. Baineann an cháipéis ghonta seo le gach bunscoil agus scoil speisialta agus soláthraíonn sí an treoirphlean chun feabhsú an bhunoideachais agus an oideachais speisialta a threorú.

Is é seo an chéad uair ag bunscoileanna agus scoileanna speisialta creat curaclaim a bheith acu mar bhonn agus mar thaca le foghlaim, teagasc agus measúnú ina scoileanna. Leagtar amach sa chreat an fhís, na prionsabail agus na comhpháirteanna a bhaineann le Curaclam athfhorbartha na Bunscoile. Léiríonn sé an tuiscint chomhroinnte atá againn ar na gnéithe dearfacha oideachais inár mbunscoileanna agus inár scoileanna speisialta, agus ag an am céanna déantar foráil chun foghlaim, teagasc agus measúnú a fheabhsú. De réir mar a théann forbairtí ar aghaidh, forbrófar sonraíochtaí nua curaclaim do na cúig réimse curaclaim agus na hábhair ghaolmhara atá acu agus beidh siad sin ar fáil don scoilbhliain 2025/2026. Nascann an *Creatchuraclam na Bunscoile* le heispéiris foghlama a chuirtear ar fáil trí théamaí *Aistear: Creatchuraclam na Luath-Óige* agus nascann sé leis an gCreat don *Timthriall Sóisearach*.

Cad atá i gCreatchuraclam na Bunscoile?

Maidir leis an gcreat seo:

- feidhmíonn sé do gach bunscoil agus scoil speisialta
- socraíonn sé an fhís agus na prionsabail do churaclam athfhorbartha



- tugann sé isteach príomhinniúlachtaí d'fhoghlaim leanaí
- leagann sé na príomhghnéithe agus na comhpháirteanna d'athfhorbairt iomlán Churaclam na Bunscoile amach, ina sonraítear réimsí curaclaim agus ábhair; agus leithdháiltí ama
- tugann sé isteach agus leathnaíonn sé gnéithe den fhoghlaim lena n-áirítear Oideachas ETIM, Nuatheangacha lasachta, Teicneolaíocht, agus Oideachas Ealaíon níos leithne
- leagtar níos mó béime ar réimsí atá ann cheana féin amhail Corpoideachas agus Oideachas Sóisialta, Pearsanta agus Sláinte (OSPS), agus foghlaim dhigiteach
- soláthraíonn sé cead gníomhaíochta agus solúbthacht níos mó do mhúinteoirí agus do leanaí.

Eiseofar ciorclán ón Roinn i mí an Mhárta ag cur tuilleadh sonraí ar fáil a bhaineann le *Creatchuraclam na Bunscoile* chun eolas 'cá háit le tosú' a chur san áireamh leis an gcreat agus ar thacaíocht do cheannairí scoileanna agus do mhúinteoirí.

Beidh an Creat ar fáil ar líne ón dáta seolta agus dáilfear cóip den chreatdoiciméad do gach príomhoide agus múinteoir ar scoileanna tar éis an tseolta.

Tuigimid go dtógfaidh an t-athrú curaclaim seo am agus iarracht. Glacfaidh sé tacaíocht freisin, agus beidh an Roinn, in éineacht leis an tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí (a bheidh ina Oide ó Mheán Fómhair 2023), agus an Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta, ag obair ar dheiseanna treorach agus foghlama gairmiúla a chur ar fáil sna blianta amach romhainn. Beidh foireann uirlisí á bhforbairt ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta freisin chun tacú le múinteoirí an curaclam a úsáid. Tuigimid freisin go bhfuil gá le cumarsáid leanúnach do gach ball de phobal na scoile le linn an phróisis athraithe seo agus tá an Roinn ag obair chun straitéis chuimsitheach chumarsáide a chur i ngníomh.

Ba mhaith linn an deis seo a thapú chun buíochas a ghabháil le ceannairí scoile, le múinteoirí agus le foireann uile na scoile as ucht bhur dtiomantais maidir le hoideachas a chur ar ár leanaí ar na caighdeáin is airde le blianta beaga anuas. Is mór ag an Roinn Oideachais bhur ngairmiúlacht.

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