

**Policy Forum for Ireland Keynote Seminar:
Next steps for post-primary curriculum reform - supporting students, promoting collaboration,
and lessons going forward**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 22nd November 2018

Venue: The Spencer Hotel, Excise Walk, IFSC, Dublin 1



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Hildegard Naughton TD, Member, Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Post-primary curriculum reform in Ireland - assessing reform and options going forward**
Professor Emer Smyth, Head, Social Research Division, Economic and Social Research Institute
Dr Conor Galvin, Lecturer and Course Director, School of Education, University College Dublin
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.35 **What can be learnt from the delivery of curriculum reform so far: buy-in, assessment and preparing pupils for progression**
To what extent has the shift from the 2012 Framework for the Junior Cycle to the 2015 Framework been a success, and what have been the most successful approaches to addressing the challenges for implementing reform - including ensuring buy-in from teachers and schools? How can the main challenges to delivering the reform - including addressing the main concerns of the teaching profession - be tackled? How can the experiences of teachers and pupils be used to improve the delivery of changes to curriculum and assessment policy and inform future reform? Given the recent completion of the first cycle of subject reform through English, what lessons can be learnt in the roll-out of the reform of the curriculum and assessment reform for further subjects, including developing the key skills identified in the 2015 Framework and in preparing young people for the Senior Cycle and beyond? How far has the dual approach between external and classroom-based assessment - including short courses - provided a more rounded assessment of educational achievement, and what can be done to develop this further?
Aidan Farrell, Chief Executive Officer, State Examinations Commission
Professor Kathy Hall, School of Education, University College Cork
Margaret McDonnell, Honorary National President, Business Studies Teachers' Association of Ireland
Breda Lynch, President, ASTI
Colm O'Connor, Principal, Cork Educate Together Secondary School
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Hildegard Naughton TD, Member, Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills
- 10.40 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senator Maria Byrne, Seanad Fine Gael Spokesperson on Education and Skills, Houses of the Oireachtas
- 11.15 - 11.45 **Curriculum reform: lessons from other jurisdictions**
Gerry Shiel, Research Fellow, Educational Research Centre
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 - 12.55 **Curriculum and assessment reform in the Senior Cycle: collaboration and meeting the needs of pupils, schools and the wider economy**
What are the next steps in the reform of curriculum and assessment in the Senior Cycle, and how can stakeholders - including pupils, parents, teachers and employers - be helped to better engage in the process of reform to ensure it fits with their needs? What options for the reform of assessment models are best placed to prepare young people for the workforce and give them the skills to flourish fully at further and higher education and in employment? How can policymakers and the wider education sector shape the overall curriculum, as well as individual subjects, to ensure that it is flexible and relevant to the needs of modern society? What lessons from the reform of the Junior Cycle - as well as best practice from other jurisdictions - should be considered in structuring and implementing reform of the Senior Cycle? How can schools tackle the challenges to implementing a reformed curriculum - including ensuring that a wide range of subjects are offered to all students; how can collaboration between schools be best supported and what could be its contribution to reform and sharing of best practice? With the phased implementation of Computer Science as a Leaving Certificate subject, following a pilot project in 40 schools, what lessons can be learnt for implementation in other new subjects?
Tony Donohoe, Head of Education and Social and Innovation Policy, Ibec
Clive Byrne, Director, National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
John Loughlin, Chairperson, Irish Science Teachers' Association
Professor Chris Morash, Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Trinity College Dublin
Beatrice Dooley, President, Institute of Guidance Counsellors
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Ireland closing remarks**
Senator Maria Byrne, Seanad Fine Gael Spokesperson on Education and Skills, Houses of the Oireachtas
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Ireland