

Welcome all valued PEAI members.

Over the previous months, the PEAI have engaged in very worthwhile and valuable meetings with the NCCA (National Council of Curriculum and Assessment), the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) and the JCT (Junior Cycle for Teachers) in an effort to have a unified message for Physical education teachers in regards the positioning of PE within the Wellbeing area of learning. This document aims to provide PE teachers with information about the new area of learning ‘Wellbeing’ in junior cycle and how PE is positioned as one of the main pillars.

The aim of this document is as follows:

1. To provide PE teachers with links to curriculum documents, i.e. NCCA PE short course, Junior Cycle Physical Education Framework and resources to support teaching and learning in PE in junior cycle available to assist in setting up a quality PE program for your school
2. A one-stop shop for contact information for all of the above mentioned Depts.
3. An overview of the ways in which the two Support Services and the PEAI plan to support quality Physical Education provision in JC Wellbeing Links to resources, examples of programs and other useful information.

The PEAI would once again like to thank our members for their continued support and at a time of great change within PE in Ireland we will continue to support our members in any way possible. We hope this will address your queries and questions.

Yours truly,



Brendan O'Malley
PEAI PRESIDENT

Physical Education Association of Ireland, University of Limerick
Tel: +353-87-1626860 Email: info@peai.org Web: www.peai.org

 facebook.com/PEAssociationIreland

 @PEAI_IRELAND

PEAI

Role – The primary objectives of the Physical Education Association of Ireland (PEAI) are as follows:

- To improve standards and performance within Physical Education by providing members with opportunities and materials for professional growth, (through the exchange of information and knowledge in the field and related areas).
- To keep members up to date on the latest issues, trends, technologies and legislative developments in P.E. and related areas.
- To support and disseminate outstanding research.
- To safeguard members' interest by speaking with a strong unified voice on relevant issues.
- To provide national leadership and opportunities to influence policy and direction in P.E.
- To interest public awareness and understanding of the contribution of the Physical Education profession to Irish life.

Resource materials – <http://www.peai.org/resources/>

Key Points

- PEAi information session Portlaoise 24th March 2017 6.30am (register via [peai.org](http://www.peai.org))
 - Free of charge for current PEAi members
- PEAi Conference 2017 Portlaoise 13th & 14th October 2017.
 - Theme – “Positioning PE at the core of your schools Wellbeing program”

NCCA

Role – The primary objectives of the National Council of Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) is as follows

- Advise the Minister for Education and Skills on curriculum and assessment from early childhood to the end of second level
- Engage with learners, teachers, practitioners, parents and others to support innovation in schools and other educational settings
- Undertake, use and share research as a basis for advice and debate on education.

Resource materials

- NCCA Physical Education Short Course is available on curriculumonline.ie
- Exemplification of student work in the short course including the Classroom-Based Assessments will be available in the coming months.
- JCPE, Physical Education Framework is available [here](#)
- Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework and exemplification of the models is available [here](#)

Key points:

- A project is underway with a group of physical education teachers to generate and gather exemplification of student work including the Classroom-Based Assessments in the NCCA PE short course. This exemplification will be available in the coming months.
- Schools can choose to include the PE short course in their JC curriculum. This would allow students learning in the PE short course to be recognised on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA).
- Senior Cycle Physical Education Framework (non-examination) is a models' based approach to teaching physical education for students in senior cycle. The Framework has been approved by the Department of Education.
- Leaving Certificate Physical Education (For examination) has been approved by the Department of Education. A decision about its implementation has not yet been made. The most recent subject to be introduced at Leaving Certificate level is Politics and Society. It has been introduced on a phased basis.

PDST

Role - The PDST is the country's largest single support service offering professional learning opportunities to teachers and school leaders in a range of pedagogical, curricular and educational areas. Within Wellbeing, the PDST are positioned to provide PE teachers with a range of professional development opportunities and supports that enable teacher learning, collaboration and evidence-based practice.

Resources - <http://www.pdst.ie/jc/pe>

Key points - The PDST offer support in a number of ways, including:

- In school support: A PDST advisor will come to the school during the school day to work with individual teachers or the PE department. Supports include planning, developing teaching and learning, using and developing assessment tools, etc.
- Whole school support: A workshop may be delivered to the whole staff on a specific area if required.
- PE professional learning communities (PLC): The PDST currently has a national network of PLC's designed to support PE teachers. Three to four workshops are run annually to support teachers and provide them with new ideas and methodologies. These PLC's are advertised and run through the local education center, however, booking can also be done through the PDST website at www.pdst.ie/onlinebooking.

Note: To apply for school support in the area of PE, go to www.pdst.ie/schoolsupport, click on the link, and apply using your school roll number as the username and schoolsupport2016 as the password.

Junior Cycle for Teachers

The role of the JCT

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) is a Department of Education and Skills schools' support service. JCT aim to provide high quality professional development opportunities for schools and teachers in the context of the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015).

Opportunities for PE teachers will be provided predominantly by the Wellbeing team and Short Courses team. Currently, JCT are hosting 51 full-day workshops nationwide where PE teachers can

- Explore the key messages regarding physical education within the new Wellbeing area of learning
- Develop and share approaches to planning and assessment using learning outcomes from the new short course specification in physical education
- Consider the first steps in introducing the Wellbeing area of learning in their school

Wellbeing at Junior Cycle

September 2017 will see schools the introduction of the Wellbeing area of learning at Junior Cycle.

Wellbeing will incorporate learning traditionally included in PE, SPHE and CSPE. A school may also choose to include other additional aspects of learning. (e.g. guidance provision)

Up to 400 hours will be available for learning in the area of Wellbeing commencing with a minimum of 300 hours of timetabled engagement from 2017 and moving to the full complement of time as the new junior cycle is fully implemented in schools.

PE within Wellbeing

Physical education aims to develop students as knowledgeable, skillful and creative participants who are confident and competent to perform in a range of activities safely. It aims to build students' appreciation of the importance of health-enhancing and inclusive physical activity and a commitment to it now, and in the future.

Curricular options for PE within Wellbeing

Learning in PE is viewed as fundamental to learning about and for wellbeing. For this reason, there is a minimum threshold of 135 hours which must be included for physical education in Wellbeing.

Physical education can be studied in the following ways:

- The junior cycle syllabus in Physical Education (2003) **or**
- The specification for the Junior Cycle short course in Physical Education (2016)

Resources

[Framework for Junior Cycle](#)

[Circular 0024/16](#)

[NCCA Guidelines for Wellbeing in Junior Cycle](#)

[Junior Cycle Short Course in PE](#)

[NCCA Assessment Toolkits](#)

Further information

Teachers may sign up for the short course newsletter to receive regular information regarding Physical Education at Junior Cycle [here...](#)

Please visit the JCT website www.jct.ie or email us at info@jct.ie

Physical Education Association of Ireland, University of Limerick

Tel: +353-87-1626860 Email: info@peai.org Web: www.peai.org

 facebook.com/PEAssociationIreland

 @PEAI_IRELAND