

Press Release

For release 9am, 28th March 2017

NCCA hosts Consultative Conference on ‘Structure and Time in a Redeveloped Primary School Curriculum’

On Tuesday 28th March 2017, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) welcomes 250 teachers, principals and other education partners to a consultative conference in Dublin Castle. Part of the ongoing consultation on the shape and direction of a redeveloped primary school curriculum, the event is designed to engage delegates in discussion and debate on the curriculum for this critical phase in children’s education. This consultation is the first time, in almost twenty years, that those working in primary education have had an opportunity to consider the structure of the curriculum, what it is comprised of and how time is organised across it.

Conference delegates will hear from children, teachers and school principals as well as those involved in research, initial teacher education and children’s advocacy groups. Fergus Finlay, CEO of Barnardos Ireland and a leading children’s rights campaigner, will address delegates in the morning session.

The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Richard Bruton, TD, will join the event in the afternoon. Speaking ahead of the conference, the Minister said, *We want every child to have a broad, appropriately challenging, engaging and fulfilling primary education. The Action Plan for Education highlights the importance of the NCCA’s work in reviewing the current curriculum and redeveloping it in the coming years. This work provides exciting opportunities to re-examine the very purpose of a primary education for today’s children and its suitability for the years ahead, and to update it and incorporate new areas of learning.* Reflecting on initial ideas, themes and questions emerging from the consultation, delegates will have opportunities to share, discuss and debate the proposals put forward by the NCCA as they

consider what type of curriculum we need and should have for children and teachers in primary schools into the next decade.

The conference is a key event in an extensive consultation undertaken by NCCA on proposals published in December 2016. These proposals include the possibility of moving away from subjects in the early years of primary and introducing them in later years. The proposals on time in the curriculum are designed to provide more flexibility for schools in how best to use time to support children’s learning. The NCCA will use the findings of this consultation to develop an overview of a redeveloped primary school curriculum which will be the focus of further consultation in 2018.

The consultation proposals along with information on how to get involved in the conversation, are published on the NCCA website at www.ncca.ie/timeandstructure. The consultation remains open until April 28th.

A live stream of the consultative conference can be viewed on www.ncca.ie/timestructureconf from 10.00am. The event can also be followed on Twitter by following #primarydevelopments and @NCCA.ie for updates.

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For more information on the consultation and the proposals, see www.ncca.ie/timeandstructure. For more information on the conference, contact:

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