



NCCA

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for
Curriculum and Assessment



Primary Curriculum Review and Redevelopment

Written submission template for organisations, groups and individuals
responding to the *Draft Primary Curriculum Framework*

Individual submission details

Name	Michelle Darmody
Date	21.08.22
E-mail	

Organisation submission details (if submission is on behalf of an organisation)

Name	Food in Schools
Position	
Organisation	
Date	
E-mail	

The NCCA will publish written submissions received during the consultation. The submissions will include the author's/contributor's name/organisation. Do you consent to this submission being posted online?

Yes x No

Please provide some brief background information on your organisation (if applicable).

A workshop hosted in conjunction with Michael Kelly of GIY, which brought together stakeholders with an interest in putting sustained and embedded food education into Irish schools.

Please email your submission to PCRRsubmissions@ncca.ie

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Food in Schools

Submission to the NCCA from a coalition to improve food education in Irish schools.

December 2020
Michelle Darmody
T.U. Dublin
d17128783@mytudublin.ie

Overview

The progressive and child centred approach to primary education being proposed by the NCCA is very welcome however we, as a group, feel that food education is not given appropriate consideration within these new developments. Food education is critical in equipping children to make healthy, sustainable food choices throughout their lives. Increased food knowledge and skills can provide brighter futures and improve outcomes and for children and young people from all societal groups in Ireland.

In February 2019 a creative day of action was held which brought together people and organisations that want **sustained food education** embedded in the school system. This day of creative action was a facilitated workshop, and focused the group on the need for policy action, explore collaboratively what it means to ‘embed food in education, and identify the next steps for action.

This document presents the outcomes of the workshop and proposes how we can contribute to the NCCA future policy and programmes in primary education.

Who we are

Over 45 people attended the workshop and shared their views on food in schools and on the curriculum. They included representatives from Government Departments and Cross Governmental initiatives across health and educational spheres, and those with professional and personal interests in health, nutrition, education, environment, and in growing, cooking, and eating food.

The forum was led by:

Michelle Darmody, a food journalist, consultant and academic researcher. Michelle conducted this research as part of a funded PhD in TU Dublin.

Michael Kelly, founder of GIY, a food writer and presenter of GROW COOK EAT on RTE television,

They are passionate about embedding **sustained food education** in Irish schools.

Anne Walshe, previously of the NCCA, presented *The Role of the school curriculum in food education*

Who we are

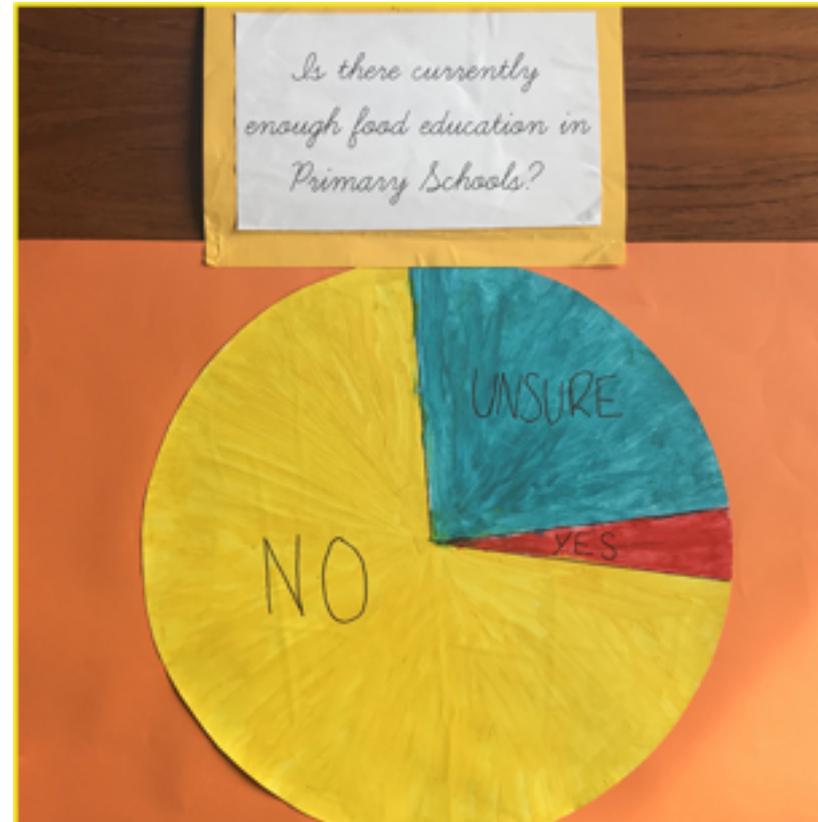
The **organisations represented** at the workshop underpinned the cross society interest in creating a sustainable approach to food education in schools, and included:

- Dept of Education and Skills
- Dept of Health
- Dept of Social Protection
- Dept of Agriculture
- Healthy Ireland
- Creative Ireland
- HSE
- Teagasc,
- An Taisce,
- Bord Bia,
- Safefood
- The Irish Nutrition & Dietetic Institute
- Irish Heart Foundation
- Failte Ireland (Food Champion Initiative)
- St. Angela's College
- Professional Development Services for Teachers
- Education's Lacking Let's Get Cracking,
- School principals and teachers
- National Council for Curriculum Assessment
- Technological University of Dublin,
- Queens University Belfast
- NUI Galway,
- Daire Project
- GIY
- Warrenmount School Canteen
- Ballymaloe Cookery School
- Slow Food
- Chef Network
- Irish Food Writers Guild
- Food on the Edge
- egg and chicken
- Euro-toques
- Airfield Estate
- Agriaware
- Friends of the Earth
- Institute for Global Food Security

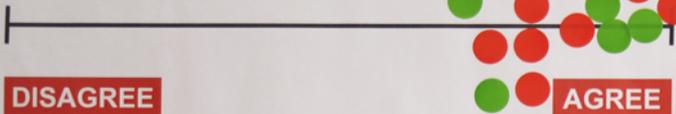
A Coalition to Improve Food Education in Irish Schools

The ultimate goal of the coalition is the development of a **holistic ‘whole school’ food education** that equips children to make delicious and nutritious food choices throughout life – An education is **sustained** and that encompasses an appreciation for the value of food **culture**, food **growing**, **cooking** and teaches life **skills**, as well as providing the **nutritional** knowledge about how food impacts bodies, health and wellbeing.

Work from the local Educate Together’s 6th class presented at the workshop

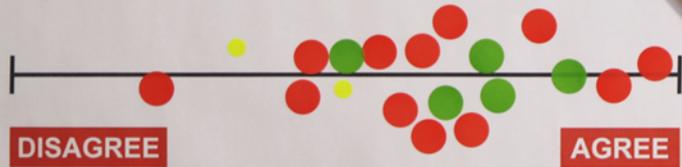


Current school subjects should be expanded to incorporate food literacy and knowledge



Participants used stickers to indicate where their opinion fell on a spectrum

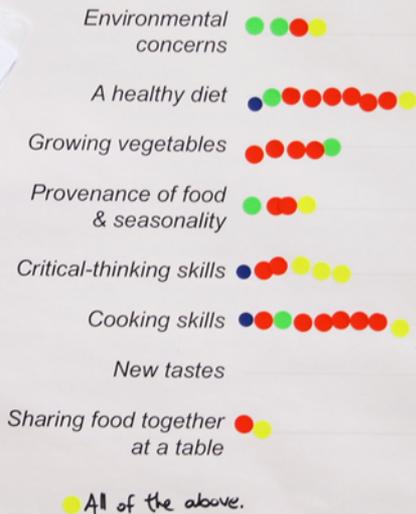
Putting food on the curriculum is the best way to improve the health and wellbeing of Irish children



They voted on the areas they felt were most important

Place stickers beside the 3 areas you feel are the most important:

A subject about food needs to contain an in-depth understanding of:



Food for Thought

Workshop Participants reflected individually on what **'Food in Schools'** means and visualised what **success** might look like by writing postcards from the future. Four key themes emerged:

- Appreciation and value of food
- Holistic approaches incorporating sustainability, environment, the future
- Developing Life Skills
- Nutritional Education – focussing on our bodies and health

The key **benefits and opportunities** it could offer children were identified as:

- Personal growth
- Multi-sensory experiences
- Harnessing existing initiatives, subjects and interest
- Learning outdoors and access to green space
- Connection with home life

All school children are now leaving school knowing how to cook healthy recipes – this has a positive impact on family dinnertimes as well as health and wellbeing

Teachers bring in food education to all subjects and throughout the school year

All schools have a comprehensive nutrition policy with set learning outcomes around food origin, how to grow food, how to cook and use food, nutritional information

Food for Thought

Ideas for Action:

- Mapping best practice nationally (we would welcome sharing this information with the NCCA)
- Linking with existing curriculum
- CPD for teachers; building teacher confidence and resources
- A whole school approach
- Linking with home
- Policy change

Summary

This summary is for presentation as a written submission to the NCCA responding to the *Draft Primary Curriculum Framework*.

The workshop was facilitated by

**Eve-Anne Cullinan and
Marion Weymes**
from
M.CO Lab