

Home Economics Development Group – Meeting 8A

Short Description

Date: 19th May 2025

Time: 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Senior Cycle Home Economics	Development Group Meeting Short Description
Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome, opening remarks and overview of the day	The Chairperson opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all members. Minutes were read and matters arising seen to.
Update: Consultation Report	The Executive confirmed the publication of the Consultation Report. Key issues identified included funding, time allocation, balance between theory and practice, and the integration of rationale and aims across learning outcomes.
Learning Outcomes	Feedback on Strand 3 Learning Outcomes: Concerns were raised about overlap with other subjects, wording of outcomes, and volume of content. The group requested clearer language, future-proofed terms, and more accessible verbs, while praising the integration of the Design Brief Process where appropriate.
Clarification on 'Such As' and 'Including' in Students Learn about Column	Definitions for the terms such as, include and quantify were circulated to the group and reviewed ahead of further discussion on Learning Outcomes. The group noted the importance of applying these terms in context and of providing clear guidance in this area
Assessment	The group reviewed four possible models for the Additional Assessment Component, considering factors such as authenticity, resource demands, progression from Junior Cycle, and equity. Two models that prioritised student autonomy and the demonstration of practical skills were regarded most positively. Concerns included timetabling, digital access, and a potential overemphasis on language skills. Suggestions included the possibilities of video submissions and appeals supported by photographic evidence.
Plenary	Concerns were raised about the volume and complexity of the draft specification. The group recommended refining learning outcomes, improving clarity with varied action verbs, and ensuring the specification is user-friendly and comparable to others under redevelopment.

AOB

The Chair extended good wishes for the summer to those not attending the second day of the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

Home Economics Development Group – Meeting 8B

Short Description

Date: 20th May 2025

Time: 9:15 am – 3:00 pm

Senior Cycle Home Economics	Development Group Meeting Short Description
Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome, opening remarks and overview of the day	The Chairperson opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all members.
Unpacking Practical Skills in SLA Columns	The group brainstormed advanced practical and textile skills, stressing progression from Junior Cycle and a balance between traditional and modern techniques. Emphasis was placed on achievable, purposeful skills, integration across strands, and clarity in the SLA column. Clear guidance will be needed to support teacher delivery.
Teaching and Learning	The group discussed classroom enactment of the specification, focusing on Key Competencies, the Unifying Strand, and the Design Brief Process. Emphasis was placed on integrated pedagogy, differentiation, assessment for learning, and digital literacy. Group input will inform future revisions.
Overall Recommendations	No decision was made on whether to differentiate the specification by level; this will be discussed in September. The group highlighted the need for clarity to avoid over-reliance on outside resources and stressed consistency in terminology, appropriate verb use, skill integration, and precision in the SLA column.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Strand 1 The group called for clearer, more practical learning outcomes with consistent terminology and appropriate verbs. Key points included distinguishing macro and micronutrients, embedding food literacy, and ensuring food innovation is meaningful and feasible in schools.</p> <p>Strand 2 Strand 2 discussions focused on clarity, real-life relevance, and the strand should aim for student enjoyment and the confidence to apply skills for everyday life. The group advised caution against overuse of the Design Brief Process and highlighted the need for simplified, purposeful outcomes aligned with everyday application.</p>

Assessment	<p>The group stressed that assessments must be level-appropriate, time-conscious, and promote progression. Authentic evaluation and preparatory work were encouraged, with a clear distinction from Junior Cycle and LCA models. Alternative formats such as student-recorded videos were proposed to address logistical challenges. Focus was placed on assessing the process, not product. A sustainability-themed brief and examples from other subjects were also discussed.</p>
Next steps and next meeting	<p>The Chairperson and Executive outlined an overview of the schedule of meetings. The Chairperson then reflected on the work done and thanked the members for their attendance and contributions.</p> <p>Next meeting: 8th September 2025</p>