

**06 September, 2017**

## **Minister Bruton welcomes launch of NCGE Post Primary School 'Career Guidance Framework'**

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Minister Bruton today [06/09] welcomed the launch on Tuesday [05/09] of The National Centre for Guidance in Education's (NCGE) 'Whole School Guidance Framework'. This document highlights the key role of the guidance counsellor in schools, working with other school staff, in the delivery and planning of guidance to students.

A copy of the document is being issued this week to every post-primary school in the country.

### **Welcoming the launch, Minister Bruton said:**

*"This framework is the product of continuing work in the area of school guidance undertaken by my Department. The Action Plan for Education 2017, launched in February, committed to finalising the Framework by the end of this year. This delivery is therefore ahead of schedule, and highlights the importance and urgency of developing a whole school approach for guidance delivery in Irish education. I would like to thank the NCGE and the relevant consultative bodies for their work in producing the Framework which I hope will assist schools in developing and updating their guidance plans."*

The Framework was developed over a three year timeframe and was informed by similar frameworks published internationally. It follows a public consultation process from late 2016, ministerial review, and receipt of commentary from other stakeholders including employer organisations.

Areas of learning for students highlighted in the framework include:

- Developing & maintaining self-esteem & a positive self-concept
- Interacting effectively with others (face-to-face & online)
- Developing & growing throughout life
- Employing effective personal learning/exam strategies
- Making educational choices in line with career aspirations
- Using career related information & sources appropriately
- Understanding the world of work & life roles
- Managing career development & decision making

### **Speaking at the launch, Jennifer Mc Kenzie, Director NCGE said:**

*'The aim of the guidance programme in schools is to help students to develop an awareness of themselves and their interests, so that they can learn to make choices for their future education, career and indeed life plans. It's not just about choosing a list of college courses. Guidance in schools is offered on an individual or group basis as part of a developmental learning process and at moments of personal crisis. Guidance Counselling may include personal counselling, educational counselling, career counselling and very often combinations of these. NCGE intends that this framework will support the work already being done by qualified school guidance counsellors and indeed all school staff, in these areas. The framework re-enforces the key understanding that guidance provision in schools is 'whole school'. This involves collective and collaborative action to develop student learning, behaviour and wellbeing, and the conditions that support these.'*

**Speaking at the launch, Beatrice Dooley, Vice President IGC said:**

*“The IGC were delighted to be involved in this process and particularly appreciated the opportunity to consult with our membership on the content of this document. We would like to commend Jennifer McKenzie for her excellent chairing of a diverse group of stakeholders including representatives from NCCA, NEPS, NAPD, the Directors of Guidance Counselling courses, the Inspectorate, the IGC and NCGE. We look forward to future collaborations of this kind where the stakeholders in guidance and counselling can inform and support each other in the pursuit of common goals.”*

**Speaking at the launch, Clive Byrne, Director NAPD said:**

*“The launch of the Whole School Guidance Framework today coming as it does with the additional guidance resources granted to schools from September will add to the supports available to students and emphasise the important role of the guidance counsellor in the lives of our students as they grow and develop through school. The areas of learning in the framework place student wellbeing and welfare centre stage and the role of the guidance counsellor in meeting the college, career, personal and pastoral needs of the individual pupil is valued and appreciated by school leaders. Close collaboration between school leader and guidance counsellor will ensure a positive school climate and make for well-adjusted and focused school leavers. In drawing up the framework the NCGE consulted widely with stakeholders. NAPD appreciated the opportunity to participate in the NCGE working group and to feed into the finished product and acknowledges NCGE’s intention to review after three years thus refreshing the Framework as necessary in the light of changing school or societal circumstances”*

ENDS

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**Notes to editors:**

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**PHOTOS HAVE BEEN ISSUED by FENNEL PHOTOGRAPHY – 01 6689766.**

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**View the full framework document here:**

[www.ncge.ie/news](http://www.ncge.ie/news)

The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NGE) is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, with responsibility to support and develop guidance practice in all areas of education and to inform the policy of the Department in the field of guidance – See [www.ncge.ie](http://www.ncge.ie)

The Framework is intended to support schools in meeting the requirement of The Education Act (1998), that schools provide students with “access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices” (section 9c).

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1998/act/51/enacted/en/html>

The Action plan for Education 2017 was launched by The Minister in February 2017 and the applicable press release and document download is available below. The applicable action pertaining to The Framework is Item 10 (P16).

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/PR2017-06-02.html>

This framework was developed by NCGE in collaboration with

- The Department of Education and Skills and the DES Inspectorate
- National Council for Curriculum and assessment – [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)
- National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals – [www.napd.ie](http://www.napd.ie)
- Institute of Guidance Counsellors – [www.igc.ie](http://www.igc.ie)
- National Educational Psychological Service - <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Home-Page.html>
- Directors of Studies of Guidance Counselling - <http://www.ncge.ie/resources/directors-of-studies-of-guidance-counselling/>

From September, 2017 NCGE will be inviting a number of schools to work with the Centre in implementing the Framework. It is NCGE's intention to review the Framework after three years, taking account of feedback from schools, so that it is up-to-date, responds to the needs of schools and supports the development of good practice.