

POST-PRIMARY

NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework: the journey continues



The **NCGE: A Whole School Guidance Framework (2017)** was published and distributed to all post primary schools in September 2017. The aim of the Framework is to provide a resource for schools to support the planning, development and implementation of a Whole School Guidance (WSG) programme that meets students' needs. In 2018, NCGE carried out a training needs analysis with Guidance Counsellors working in post primary schools. One need immediately identified was supporting schools with Whole School Guidance planning.

CPD: 'Step-by-step approach to Guidance practice using the Whole School Guidance Framework'



Following the successful implementation of a pilot project with schools in 2018, the decision was made to provide dedicated CPD looking at 'Whole School Guidance' countrywide. Three initial CPD days took place in April and early May 2019 in Dublin, Mullingar and Cork. By considering the continuum of support model of 'Guidance for All', 'Some' and 'a Few', the 'Whole School Guidance Wheel' and the guidance learning outcomes of 'Developing Myself', 'Developing My Learning', 'Developing my Career Path', schools had the chance to think about what they are already providing, which school staff are involved, and where the gaps in guidance provision in their school may exist.

In autumn / winter 2019 additional CPD days took place in Donegal, Galway, Waterford, Mullingar and Dublin.

Demand for this in-service has been significant, bringing to nine the total number of Whole School Guidance CPD days facilitated in 2019 - with a total of 235 schools participating.

A key component of this NCGE CPD programme is supporting schools in using the Framework by providing additional resources/tools that can be used to explore Whole School Guidance and to identify strengths and affirm the excellent practice which is already taking place. Opportunities are provided for schools to identify if there are any 'gaps' in provision and are then supported in developing a plan to address these areas. Many schools have worked on developing 'Guidance Related Learning' at Junior Cycle, being a self-assessed area in need of focus and development. Other schools have focused on providing 'guidance for some,' and increasing the amount of 'group-based' guidance activities.

Feedback to date from schools on the Whole School Guidance CPD included the following:

'We are doing the work on the ground – we just need to document it.'

'I have a greater understanding of what is required to create a WSG Plan and greater understanding of how to continually update WSG Plan.'

'We now have clarity in where we go from here. It was good to have time on the CPD day to think and set priorities'

Participants noted that the opportunity for collaboration with other schools on the topic of Whole School Guidance was very welcome. Many schools noted they planned to include the 'student voice' and 'parent voice' in the creation of their plans. Some schools additionally offered to take part in future NCGE pilot projects – NCGE will be in touch on this shortly!

Support for schools is ongoing

Support for schools in the provision of Whole School Guidance will continue beyond these regional CPD days. Resources for Guidance Counsellors are being continuously developed and several other CPD initiatives are in the pipeline. NCGE are currently looking at **Phase 2** of Whole School Guidance planning with a focus on the **'Implementation of Whole School Guidance.'** This phase began in earnest in November 2019 when the 16 schools who were involved in Phase 1 of the pilot returned for a session in the Clock Tower of the Department of Education and Skills. This second phase focuses on the practical implementation of the WSG plan and linking WSG with School Self Evaluation. NCGE plan to roll out this second phase of CPD nationally and will be in touch with schools soon.

Online support resources have been provided in support of the implementation of a continuum of support model for guidance in schools. You can access these below. NCGE will be publishing additional resources over the coming months to support schools in using the Framework.

NCGE WSG Framework: Resources 
<https://www.ncge.ie/wsg/resources>

School Guidance Handbook 
<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-handbook>

For further information on NCGE Post Primary CPD opportunities go to <https://www.ncge.ie/cpd/post-primary> 

