

POST-PRIMARY

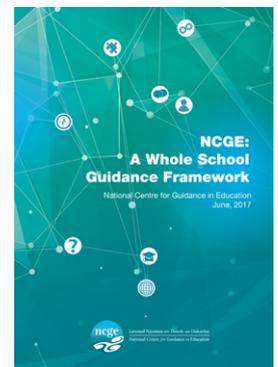
NCGE: A Whole School Guidance Framework



Pilot participants in the Clock Tower, DES, February 2018

Context

The NCGE Framework was developed as a resource to support schools in planning, designing and implementing whole school guidance programmes. The aim of the Framework is to facilitate schools in meeting the requirement of Section 9c of The 1998 Education Act – “...to ensure that students have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choice”. Appropriate guidance is defined by the DES (2005) as the “...whole school’s response to meeting the guidance needs of all its students” (pg. 4).



The Framework was developed by the NCGE convened post-primary guidance working group from 2015-2017. The post-primary guidance working group included representation from DES, DSGC, IGC, NAPD, NEPS, NCCA and NCGE. Following a public consultation process, The Framework was published and distributed to schools in September, 2017 with the invitation to participate in a pilot project testing the implementation of the Framework in schools.

Pilot Project

16 post-primary schools nation-wide are currently participating in the NCGE pilot project ‘looking at whole school guidance in junior cycle’. Schools represented include, small, medium and large rural and urban voluntary secondary, ETB, community & comprehensive and private schools. Participation in the pilot includes a representative from school management (principal/deputy) and the guidance counsellor(s). The pilot project which commenced in January will be completed in May 2018. It involves a blended approach – engaging online with material (resources developed to support implementation of the Framework) and participation in two face-to-face workshops and an online meeting.

Schools participating in the pilot have the opportunity to explore the whole school guidance programme at junior cycle using a ‘School Self Evaluation’ (SSE) methodology. It is expected that participating schools will identify strengths and



areas for improvement within the junior cycle whole school guidance programme as a result of participation in the pilot. Schools participating in the pilot project have also been introduced to the continuum of support model for guidance, as detailed in The Framework and have had the opportunity to meet with Prof. Jim Sampson from Florida State University to explore how a continuum of support model may be applied to the whole school guidance programme.

All 16 schools participated in the first face-to-face workshop which was held in the Department of Education and Skills on Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 on the 6th February. The workshop provided school principals/deputies and guidance counsellors to explore guidance in junior cycle, to share practice and to learn from one another – a community of practice. The workshop was followed-up by an online meeting with all schools (in 3 separate meetings) on the 20th February. The online meeting provided schools with the opportunity to review and share their progress to-date and to identify steps to take prior to the final face-to-face workshop on the 2nd May. On the 2nd May schools were invited to showcase their work, had the opportunity to hear from Prof Jim Sampson and provided NCGE with critical feedback on the pilot project and materials.

Once the pilot project phase is complete, the resources developed by NCGE and the participating schools will be made available to the wider school community through the online [NCGE School Guidance Handbook](#)

The full “Framework” and the Whole School Guidance “Wheel Poster” can be downloaded at the following links on the NCGE website:

<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-handbook/ncge-whole-school-guidance-framework>

https://www.ncge.ie/sites/default/files/Framework_Guidance_POSTERS_P1ONLY.pdf

If you would like more information regarding The Framework or the pilot project, please contact NCGE at ncgeinfo@ncge.ie

