

National Centre for Guidance in Education

Webinar Presentation and Discussion for Whole School Guidance during the Covid19 Pandemic:
Guidance Matters: Maximising Guidance Related Choices for 6th years.
13th May, 2020.



Lárionad Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas
National Centre for Guidance in Education



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

The role of NCGE:



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Department of
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**NCGE is an agency of the
Department of Education and Skills (DES)**

Our role:

Develop, support and influence quality guidance provision in post-primary schools and further education and training settings as part of lifelong learning, in accordance with national and international best practice.

Purpose of this webinar:



Part 1:

Introduction and reflections on the role of Guidance

Part 2:

To discuss Guidance Related Choices for the current 6th year cohort.

Part 3:

To provide an update on developments in Guidance.

Part 4:

To facilitate a Q and A session in relation to Guidance in post primary schools at the current time.

The role of Guidance?:



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Guidance in schools ...

“refers to a range of learning experiences provided in a *developmental sequence*, that assist students to *develop self-management skills* which will lead to *effective choices and decisions about their lives*. It encompasses the three separate, but interlinked, areas of personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance”. (DES, 2005)

In supporting Choices and decisions , Guidance supports transitions

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Lifelong Guidance Supports Transitions – When & How?

Guidance supports transitions:

- * From Primary into Post-primary
- * From Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle
- * From School to 3rd level (PLC / IoT, Uni), Apprenticeship, Work, Volunteering etc
- * From “ college” to “ work”
- * From Unemployment to Employment
- * Upskilling IN employment
- * Changing employment
- * Leaving employment –family care/ retiring
- * Re-entering employment / education
- * Focusing on Personal/Social *and* Careers / Vocational *and* Educational
- * Progressions - linear or horizontal
- * Planned or unplanned
- * At times of reflection *and* times of crisis

DES guidelines and FAQs



DES 13/05/20

Protocol for Guidance Counsellors and members of the Student Support Team

Students remain students of the school until the end of the school term. In terms of the school's role in supporting the wellbeing of Leaving Certificate students, the role of the Student Support Team as set out in the guidance issued recently to schools, should remain available until the end of the school term (31st May 2020).

Guidance Counsellors are permitted to continue to provide guidance counselling support to 6th year students (1:1 and small group work). Guidance counselling support may be provided to students wishing to discuss their social personal, education and career concerns.

However, In advance of any planned interaction with students a clear statement must be communicated to students and parents/guardians that the guidance counsellor will not be engaging in discussions regarding the calculated grading process or potential marks awarded by teachers. Guidance Counsellors, teachers and students may not discuss the student's achievement in the subject over the past two years. Nor can they discuss the student's ranking in a class, or their estimated mark or the level at which an estimated mark is to be provided in a subject.

All conversations between Leaving Certificate students and members of the School's Student Support Team, during this time, need to be prefaced with a statement such as the following:

'As part of our conversation today we are prohibited from having any discussion about student achievement over the past 2 years, student ranking in a class, student's estimated mark or the level an estimated mark is to be provided in a subject. If our conversation strays into speaking about any of these matters, our meeting will have to cease immediately.'

For questions relating to LC 2020, please DES website

<https://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Information/State-Examinations/leaving-cert-2020.html>

and the FAQ section which is updated regularly on Gov.ie

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d8920c-leaving-cert-2020/?referrer=/leavingcertificate/>

Child Protection during COVID 19



02 April 2020:

Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for Primary and Post-primary Schools

- * Schools and teachers should continue to be alert to the possibility that a child protection concern may arise in relation to students they come in contact with and should follow the relevant reporting procedures in the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017.
- * In circumstances where it is not possible to jointly report a concern with the school Designated Liaison Person (DLP), the teacher should make their own report directly to Tusla and provide a copy of that report to the school DLP at the earliest opportunity. Details are available on the Tusla website at <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/contact-a-social-worker3/> or through the Tusla online portal at <https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/web-portal/>
- * In cases of emergency, where a child appears to be at immediate and serious risk, and it is not possible to make contact with Tusla, An Garda Síochána shall be contacted immediately. This may be done by contacting a Garda Station.

* **Continuity of Guidance Counselling – Guidelines for Schools April 2020**

Students U16 have rights to access information society services, specific exemption where a child is seeking preventative or counselling services online

Part 2: Guidance for the current 6th year students

Holding Steady in Uncharted Waters.



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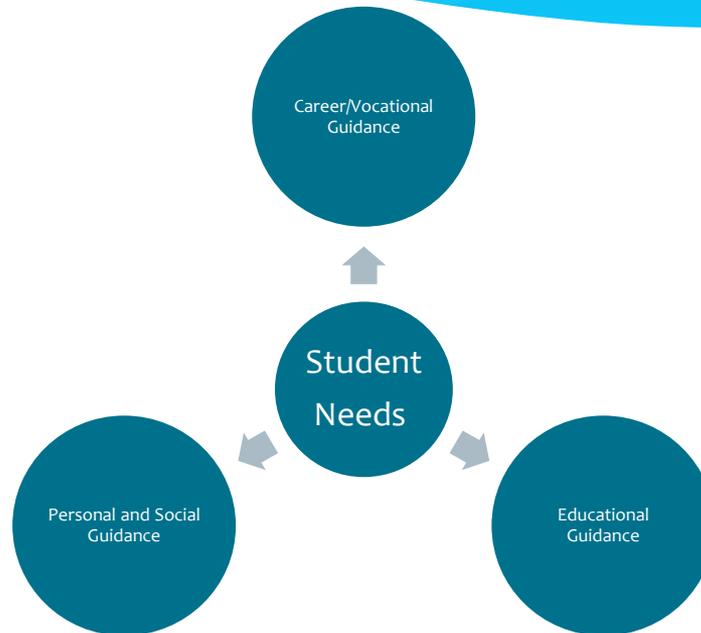


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Guidance For Current 6th year students: Needs based approach

**Focus on all three
aspects of the
Guidance role: Needs
based approach.**

**How can you identify
the current guidance
needs?**

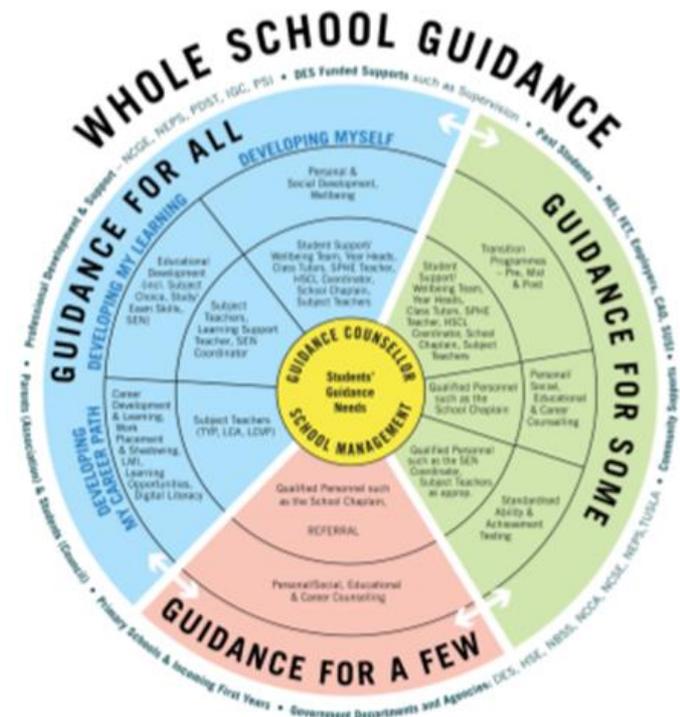


**Student Questionnaire in the areas of:
Future Plans, Systems of Application, Wellbeing, Communication, School Work, Study Skills**

Communication, Organisation and Resource Management

For 6th year students:

1. Identify student guidance needs
2. Identify needs of *All / Some* and *Few*
3. Discuss with members of school community/ Student Support Team how best to meet the needs
4. Utilise school guidance website, social media, school online platform for general updates/ resources



The results process & possible options for students

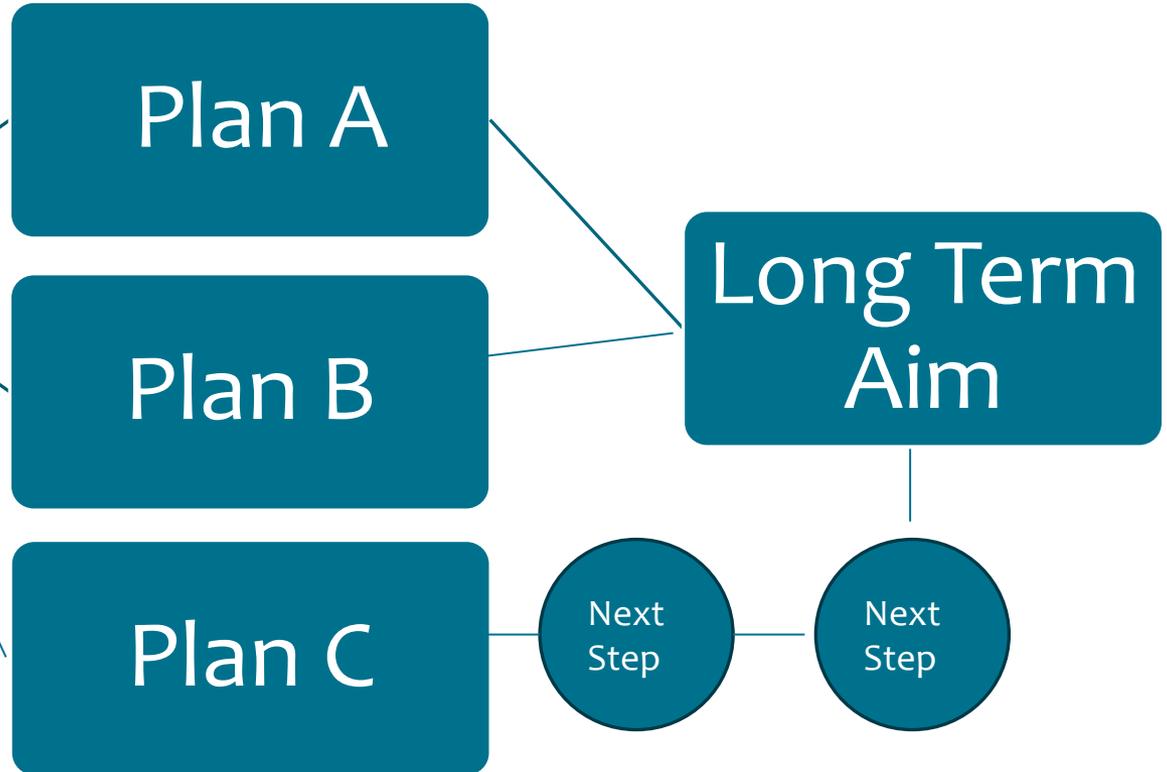


Note: (as per links on Slide 6)

1. Grades (and certificates holding the same value and status as in previous years) will be issued as close to the 'normal' date as possible.
2. Subject outside of school? Case by case basis.
3. CAO will also operate as close as possible to 'normal' timeline.
4. Appeals process: students in phase 1 of Appeal may be in time to start HE this year. Phase 2 and 3 of Appeal may result in students starting in the next academic year.
5. Mixing exam grades between calculation / appeal / examinations is possible.
6. Applications to Institutions outside of Europe: As much flexibility as possible has been requested.

From A Guidance Perspective

We maintain our system of navigation



Example A:

Student A:

- Very academic.
- Applying for CAO courses which have been traditionally very competitive.
- Student has been anxious throughout post-primary education.

Proposed Actions:

- Send student questionnaire
- Act on questionnaire response (All / Some / Few) and refer to DES (NEPS) Document keeping wellbeing in mind.

Group Guidance: clear guidance on CAO / backups and on plan for study over summer if student is choosing to sit exams

One-to-one: What level of intervention is needed? External Supports?

- Reassure student in so far as possible.
- Child protection concern?
 - (i) Discuss with SST school management.
 - (ii) Discuss with DLP or get in touch with Tusla if contact with DLP not possible.
- Information on school website for parents on how to support their students over summer months

(Outline and discuss approach with school management prior to taking action)

Student B:

Student B:

- Not motivated in school up to March.
- A 'crammer' who planned for the Leaving Certificate to be different from other post primary assessments.
- CAO in disarray
- Had applied to a course in the Netherlands
- Not sure what to do in the future

Proposed Actions:

- Send student questionnaire
- Act on Questionnaire response:
Group Guidance: clear guidance on CAO / backups and on plan for study over summer if needed/ application to courses abroad / Appeals process.
One-to-one: Discuss goals? External Supports? Goal-setting and plan for over summer.
- Information on how student can keep up to date over the summer (Ireland and abroad).
- Presentation/Webinar or newsletter for parents on how to support their students over summer months

(Outline and discuss approach with school management prior to taking action)

Student C:

Student C:

- Very disinterested in school.
- Has not engaged with the school since March.
- Failed a number of assessments throughout post primary education.

Proposed Actions:

- Send questionnaire survey.
- Act on questionnaire response (if any):

Group Guidance: clear guidance on CAO / PLC / Apprenticeships / Applying for jobs / Interview tips / CV Clinic.

One-to-one: Discuss goals? External Supports?

- Information for parents on school website on how to support their students over summer months (e.g. applications for PLCs / Apprenticeships / Jobs)
- Connect with student at end of summer and offer support if needed.

(Outline and discuss approach with school management prior to taking action)

Part 3: Updates for Guidance Counsellors

NCGE updates and other information



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Guidance resources, publications and policies:



Continuity of Guidance (During Covid19 School Closures):

DES - 2020

[Continuity of Guidance Counselling - Guidelines for schools providing online support for students](#)

NCGE - 2020

[Support information for Guidance Counsellors in Schools \(*Covid-19 School Closures*\)](#)

Monaghan Education Centre (2020)

[Information notice for supervisors and Guidance Counsellors](#)

DES – 2020

[Supporting the Wellbeing of Students: Guidance for Post-Primary Schools and Student Support Teams during School Closures and Public Health Restrictions arising from COVID-19](#)

General Policy and Publications

[Government of Ireland – 1998 - The Education Act: Section 9c](#)

DES –2005

[Guidelines for Second Level Schools on the Implications of Section 9 \(c\) of the Education Act 1998, relating to students' access to appropriate guidance](#)

NCGE –2017

[Whole School Guidance Framework](#)

Keep up to date
with official
gov.ie updates &
key agencies.

NCGE Updates / Next Steps



Resources:

- * School Guidance Handbook
<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-handbook/>
- * Whole School Guidance Framework and Resources -
<https://www.ncge.ie/wsg/references>
- * Resource sharing facility
<https://www.ncge.ie/covid-19/support/post-primary/resources/sharing>
- * Confidentiality Policy
<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-handbook/developing-confidentiality-policy-post-primary-schools>
- * Continuity of Guidance PowerPoint <https://www.ncge.ie/covid-19/support/post-primary/resources/slideshow>
- * Euro-Quest
<https://euroguidance.ie/euro-quest>
- * Additional Weekly webinars (Topics to be decided based on needs of Guidance Counsellors)
- * Information Updates
- * Resources Sharing
- * Welcome Feedback

For Further Information:

General

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2fo7eb-leaving-cert-2020-information/>

Press Release

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2020-press-releases/PR20-05-08.html>

Calculating Grade Guide

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/74043/96076aa3e16240cc93e2a56a1ea94d75.pdf#page=1>

Other Updates / Critical information



DES Guidelines:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Post-Primary-School-Policies/Policies/continuity-of-guidance-counselling-guidelines-for-schools-providing-online-support-for-students.pdf>

NEPS:

NEPS advice & resources for keeping children and young people well during Covid-19

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/covid-19.html>

DES:

Supporting the Wellbeing of Students: Guidance for Post-Primary Schools and Student Support Teams during School Closures and Public Health Restrictions arising from COVID-19

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/supporting-the-wellbeing-of-post-primary-students.pdf>

General NEPS resources & publications:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/Resources-Publications.html>

DES Information for Leaving Certs 2020

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2f07eb-leaving-cert-2020-information/>

DES information on Wellbeing for Leaving Certs 2020

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/256911-leaving-cert-2020-practical-supports>

DES Guidelines for Second Level Schools on the Implications of Section 9 (c) of the Education Act 1998, relating to students' access to appropriate guidance. (2005)

https://www.ncge.ie/sites/default/files/ncge/uploads/pp_guidelines_second_level_schools_9c.pdf

Other Updates / Critical information



PDST:

<https://www.pdst.ie/>

CAO:

<https://www.cao.ie/index.php?page=faqcovid19>

SEC:

<https://www.examinations.ie/>

PLC/Colleges of Further Education:

<https://fetchcourses.ie>

Careers Portal:

<https://careersportal.ie>

Professional Bodies: IGC

<http://igc.ie/>

SUSI:

<https://susi.ie/do-you-have-a-question-about-covid-19-and-student-grant-funding-check-out-our-covid-19-faq/>

Careers & Education News

<https://careersnews.ie/>

Part 4: Q&A



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THANK YOU

Webinar recording will be available at:
<https://www.ncge.ie/covid-19/support/post-primary/webinars>



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[@ncgeguidance](https://twitter.com/ncgeguidance)