



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

CUMASÚ

Empowering through learning

Statement of Strategy 2019-2021

Table of Contents

Foreword by the Minister	1
Statement by the Secretary General	2
Vision	3
Our Mission	4
Our Values	4
Our Goals	5
Introduction	6
Key challenges and opportunities in our operating environment	7
Work with other Departments	10

STRATEGIC GOAL 1

We will shape a responsive education and training system that meets the needs and raises the aspirations of all learners

Strategic Actions	12
-------------------	----

STRATEGIC GOAL 2

We will advance the progress of learners at risk of educational disadvantage and learners with special educational needs in order to support them to achieve their potential

Strategic Actions	13
-------------------	----

STRATEGIC GOAL 3

We will equip education and training providers with the skills and support to provide a quality learning experience

Strategic Actions	14
-------------------	----

STRATEGIC GOAL 4

We will intensify the relationships between education and the wider community, society and the economy

Strategic Actions	15
-------------------	----

STRATEGIC GOAL 5

We will lead in the delivery of strategic direction and supportive systems in partnership with key stakeholders in education and training

Strategic Actions	16
-------------------	----

Key Indicators	17
----------------	----

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Strategies	18
------------	----

Appendix 2

Bodies under the aegis of the Department	23
--	----

Appendix 3

Acronyms	24
----------	----



Foreword by the Minister



Being Minister for Education and Skills is truly a privilege. Every day I work with people who are passionate about helping our learners to be the best that they can be. Education is critical to building a strong and successful country. It underpins our economy and how well we compete in the global market for jobs and innovation. It improves individuals' life choices, their health and wellbeing and employment outcomes.

I am pleased to introduce this new Strategy Statement which outlines the strategic direction and priorities that will be advanced during my time as Minister for Education and Skills. Tá áthas orm an Ráiteas Straitéise nua seo a chur i láthair ina leagtar amach an treo straitéiseach agus na tosaíochtaí a chuirfear ar aghaidh i rith mo chuid ama mar Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna.

I have set out a vision for the Department encapsulated in the word 'cumasú', empowering - a quality learning system empowers learners to make better life choices.

While education is a key to unlock the potential of the individual, it is also key to unlocking our cultural identity, ár n-oidhreacht. Our history, language, music and sport are central to the creation of a vibrant community spirit and the creation of shared connections across our country. They are a valuable contribution to the learning experience, the building of community ties and social cohesion that can support us in meeting future challenges in a changing world.

We face many challenges including the potential impact of Brexit on education and training. While my Department's response will continue to evolve, we will maintain and progress collaboration on a North-South and East-West basis to ensure that the education and training system is maintained and, in particular, that the peace dividend experienced since the Good Friday Agreement can be supported. We will continue to engage in cooperation and partnership to best deliver the skills and services that learners need – ní neart go cur le chéile.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Department and of those across the education and training sector for the work they undertake for the betterment of learners. Together with my colleagues, Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D., Minister of State for Higher Education and John Halligan T.D., Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation and Research and Development, I look forward to working with the Department, our agencies and stakeholders in achieving the vision of an education system that empowers all.

Joe McHugh T.D.

Minister for Education and Skills

Statement by the Secretary General



I am pleased to introduce the Department's Statement of Strategy 2019-2021 which outlines a clear and ambitious path for the next three years. We intend to continue making progress to embed initiatives and strategies that are underway and to reform at a pace at which the system can deliver.

The theme of empowering through learning, summed up in the Irish word, *Cumasú*, sets out the strategic vision of the Minister for the education and training system and provides a context for the development of this Strategy Statement.

The Department is driving the implementation of an ambitious sector-wide strategy based on the key principles of access, excellence, transparency and innovation. Our aim is to provide an education and training system that equips learners with the knowledge and skills that they need to achieve their potential, and to participate fully in society and the economy through the delivery of high quality education and training experiences.

The Strategy maps out the challenges and opportunities that shape our operating environment. It also highlights the importance of enhancing the Department's capacity to deliver on its goals and sets out the strengths and values that will guide how we will deliver our mission.

The Strategy sets out the goals, strategic actions and indicators by which our continued progress will be judged. The Department will publish an Action Plan each year which will detail our high level annual work programme to be delivered for that year. In this way, we will be able to monitor progress towards the achievement of our goals.

In developing the Strategy Statement, the Department, conscious that the education and training system works as a partnership with the sector and stakeholders, engaged in a wide consultation process and received in excess of 400 submissions. I wish to acknowledge all of the contributions that we received during the consultation and development process. We will continue to work with our many partners so that together we can deliver an education and training system that meets learners' needs, and the needs of society, enterprise and the economy.

Seán Ó Foghlú
Secretary General

Vision

Cumasú

Empowering through learning

A progressive and equitable education and training system has the power to transform lives - the transformation begins with the individual, and moves outward: to family, to community, to society. It brings important social and economic benefits in the form of self-confident and dynamic communities – communities which foster social stability, independence, creativity and entrepreneurial endeavours.

The key to accessing this transformation is through the delivery of a quality learning experience that challenges each person to realise their potential, to raise their aspirations and to achieve their personal ambitions.

We want an education and training system which empowers learners to be confident in their national, cultural and individual identity, to be aware of their capability to achieve more and to take every opportunity that arises to be the best that they can be.

We want to empower learners by offering a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences, reaching out to all learners – including those impacted by disadvantage, learners who need additional educational supports and learners who wish to return to education to enhance their skills.

We have set out to deliver a learning experience to the highest international standards. We want to work with our education practitioners to support the development of their capability to drive continuous improvement and reform across education and training. We want to provide learning at all levels and to all age groups, which is enhanced through the richness of innovation, discovery and research.

The Department's work reflects the value that the Government places on education. We want to provide an education and training system, based on evidence-informed policies, that is designed to anticipate and respond to the changing needs of learners, society and the economy.

We will work in partnership with learners, parents, education and training providers and all our stakeholders to achieve our vision.

Our Mission and Our Values

Our Mission

To facilitate individuals, through learning, to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland's social, economic and cultural development.

Our Values

We place the learner at the centre of education strategy and policy development and value learning as a public good, in light of its core role in the development, cohesion and wellbeing of an inclusive society.

We believe in the vital importance of open communication, consultation and collaboration with stakeholders, within the education and training sector and with the wider community.

We are committed to the principles of continuous improvement, innovation and evaluation which will underpin evidence-based policy development and programme delivery.

The achievement of our goals will be underpinned by the overarching values for the Civil Service, as set out in the Civil Service Renewal Plan.

We value our staff and create an environment where we learn, develop and contribute to the goals of the organisation.

We are accountable, open to change, customer-focused and respectful in our dealings with the public and work colleagues.

Our Goals



GOAL 1

We will shape a responsive education and training system that meets the needs and raises the aspirations of all learners.



GOAL 2

We will advance the progress of learners at risk of educational disadvantage and learners with special educational needs in order to support them to achieve their potential.



GOAL 3

We will equip education and training providers with the skills and support to provide a quality learning experience.



GOAL 4

We will intensify the relationships between education and the wider community, society and the economy.



GOAL 5

We will lead in the delivery of strategic direction and supportive systems in partnership with key stakeholders in education and training.

Introduction

At the core of the Department's Strategy Statement is the aim to improve the lives of every learner through the provision of a quality education and training experience. Education and training give learners the skills and knowledge to fulfil their personal goals and to be productive and valuable members of society.

The Strategy Statement 2019-2021 is a further step in a cohesive and holistic approach to change in a complex and dynamic environment. It forms a bridge between the significant achievements to date and our ambitions into the future. The Strategy Statement sets out the strategic actions to be achieved in response to the needs of learners, employers and society, at every level in the education and training system, in the context of significant national and international change, evolving skill demands and changing demographics.

The Strategy Statement 2019-2021 has an accompanying Action Plan that details our high level work programme for 2019. Action Plans will be developed on an annual basis with actions monitored for delivery. The Annual Action Plan process allows the Department to review and reprioritise activity in a flexible and responsive way to meet changing circumstances nationally and internationally.

Key challenges and opportunities in our operating environment

The education and training system functions on interconnected levels. At the level of learners, it offers a quality learning environment through which they can realise their potential and deal positively with life's opportunities and challenges. It is also a powerful instrument of social cohesion and cultural development and is central to the economic wellbeing of the country, playing an important role in economic development, stability and strength.

Political environment

The Government's ambition is to combine different talents to build a strong economy and to deliver a fair society, so that communities thrive in urban and rural Ireland. The document 'A Programme for a Partnership Government' (2016), details a number of priorities relating to education and training. Significant work has been undertaken to date in meeting these priorities. This work will be further progressed over the lifetime of this Strategy Statement.

The departure of the UK from the EU presents significant political, economic and social challenges for Ireland, given the extent of the inter-connectedness of the economies and people. Accordingly, the maintenance and enhancement of the close cooperation between education, training and research systems and people on a North-South and East-West basis is a priority for the Department.

Economic Environment

The economy is performing positively and economic growth in Ireland's key trading partners remains reasonably solid and there is continued momentum in the labour market. There are risks to this positive performance including geo-political factors, general Government debt and the UK's decision to leave the European Union. The Department is mindful of these risks in its provision of services and use of public finances.

Labour Market

Ensuring Ireland has the skills to respond to employment opportunities for the changing world of work is essential to sustaining economic competitiveness and growth.

The education and training system will play a key role in addressing existing and emerging skills needs, providing education, training and skills development opportunities to new entrants as well as ongoing upskilling and reskilling of existing labour market participants.

Increasing Demographic Pressures

The Department has calculated a number of demographic scenarios and considers that the assumption that there will be medium migration and that fertility will remain at 2017 levels, is the most likely scenario for the future. After a period of significant growth, enrolments at first level are due to peak and begin to decrease, while at second level they are expected to continue to increase.

Growing numbers of students at second and third level will present many challenges across the education and training system, including the requirement for a significant programme of capital expenditure.

Managing Education and Training Sector Reform

The Department is engaged in an extensive reform programme and continues to take a whole-of-system approach to strategic planning and implementation across the education and training sector. This joined up approach, based on international research, enables us to plan and implement an extensive programme of reform and to balance this with the demands of supporting and sustaining the operation of the system. We will continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure the effective pacing and sequencing of planned reforms across the continuum of education and training, and to expand the scope of reform focusing on innovation and evaluation. We will continue to work in partnership on the roll out of 'Our Public Service 2020', the new public service reform plan, and to expand the scope of reform to focus on innovation and evaluation in collaboration with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

Civil Service Renewal Plan

Civil Service Renewal, along with the broader public service reform agenda, provides ongoing opportunities and challenges for the Department. Our **Public Service 2020** is a policy framework which encompasses many ongoing reform initiatives and strategies, including those related to Civil Service renewal and human resources (HR).

This Department remains fully committed to the extensive programme of civil service reform, through its participation on the Civil Service Management Board (CSMB) and other reform networks and through the development and implementation of various reform initiatives,

including the ongoing implementation of the Department's HR Strategy. These initiatives seek to build capacity of our staff to respond to significant challenges, in a rapidly changing environment, and enhance the service provided by the Department to deliver better outcomes for the public and other stakeholders.

Skills and Capacity

The Department is engaged in on-going development of the skills and capacities of its staff, in accordance with the Civil Service Renewal Plan and strategic workforce planning objectives to ensure that we can deliver on our goals.

Over the term of the Strategy Statement, we will continue to address training needs of staff to ensure that they are equipped with the essential skills needed to be effective in delivering for the citizen. The Department will continue to engage with the Civil Service Learning & Development Centre to access common learning and development interventions. In 2019, One Learning will launch its Learning & Development System which will enable staff to access a wide range of courses.

Ensuring equality

Human rights and equality issues as they apply to the education and training system are addressed within the individual strategic actions under our goals.

Work with other Government Departments

The Department of Education and Skills works with other Government Departments to ensure the advancement of its strategic priorities and on cross-cutting priority areas.

Department of the Taoiseach:

- Streamlining of Government communications to allow citizens access to information in a convenient, effective manner
- Overseeing the implementation of the Mulvey Report for the long-term social and economic regeneration of the Dublin North East Inner City area

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation:

- Collaborating on the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs
- Implementing Future Jobs Ireland, Regional Enterprise Plans, Innovation 2020 and Technology Skills 2022
- STEM Policy Statement and Implementation Plan 2017–2026 on actions relating to innovation and the engagement of STEM industries with schools

Department of Children and Youth Affairs:

- Continuing work to improve the quality of education provision and develop the workforce within the Early Childhood Care and Education sector
- Continuing the development of a demonstration model for the provision of therapy services in school and ECCE settings
- Supporting the delivery of TUSLA's integrated delivery model for education welfare
- Implementing the Wellbeing Policy, a cross-sectoral priority area under "Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures"

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment:

- Improving broadband connectivity for schools and other relevant actions under the National Broadband Plan
- Implementing the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development 2014-2020 which is linked to Our Sustainable Future Policy Framework which is engaged in the delivery of the All of Government Climate Plan

Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:

- Advancing of the education elements of the "20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language, 2010-2030"
- Implementing Creative Ireland's 'Creative Youth' plan

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

- Progressing the Global Footprint Initiative
- Advancing the “International Trade Strategy”
- Advancing post-Brexit arrangements

Department of Health:

- Working on the National Taskforce on Youth Mental Health
- Working with ‘Healthy Ireland’ initiatives within the education system
- Progressing the implementation of a new school inclusion model to deliver the right supports at the right time to student with additional care needs

Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government:

- Implementing the student housing aspects of the Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness
- Supporting a co-ordinated approach to homelessness as part of the Homelessness Interagency Group
- Continuing cooperation with regard to planning school infrastructure and building on existing cooperation through the statutory land use plan processes

Department of Justice and Equality:

- Supporting work on the Migrant Integration Strategy, the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy, the National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020, the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 and the Comprehensive Employment Strategy 2015-2024

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform:

- Implementing relevant reforms associated with the civil service and public service reform programmes within the Civil Service Renewal Plan and Our Public Service 2020
- Advancing actions set out in the Build to Share Strand of the Public Service ICT Strategy

Department of Rural and Community Development:

- Implementing the Department’s commitments under The Action Plan for Rural Development
- Progressing literary and numeracy agenda in cooperation with library services

In its role as Chair of the Sponsors Group and working collaboratively with the Departments of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Children and Youth Affairs; Health and Justice and Equality the Department will progress implementation of the Government’s Action Plan for Online Safety.

Goal 1

We will shape a responsive education and training system that meets the needs and raises the aspirations of all learners.

A quality learning experience that supports learners to fulfil their potential is key to giving each the opportunities to be the best they can be. We will support the development of a learning experience attuned to the current and future needs of learners so that they can better navigate a complex world by delivering a step change in the development of critical thinking skills, knowledge and competences and continuing with our programme of curricular reform and increasing subject choice. We will support education providers to help learners to develop social and emotional competence, in order to build resilience, self-efficacy and empathy, mindful of the challenges faced in the modern world, including those posed by the use of technology.

We will support children and young people at key transition points, and advance the use of digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment. While the Department's response to the impact of Brexit on education will continue to evolve, we will continue to progress collaboration on a North-South and East-West basis to ensure that the education and training ecosystem is maintained and, in particular, that the peace dividend experienced since the Good Friday Agreement can be supported. We will continue to engage in cooperation and partnership to best deliver the skills and services that learners need in a fast-changing world.

Strategic Actions

To achieve this goal we will implement the following strategic actions:

1. Foster and promote the wellbeing of learners in the education and training system in order to support success in learning and in life.
2. Review and reform the curricula from Early Years to senior cycle level to enhance quality learning and support learners' physical and intellectual development.
3. Improve proficiency in, and increase the diversity of take up of, languages to provide greater opportunities to learners and meet skills needs.
4. Implement the Gaeltacht education policy and improve the quality of Irish-medium educational provision in line with the "20 Year Strategy for Irish".
5. Ensure the education system meets the current and future needs of learners participating in an economy, labour market and society being transformed by technology.



Goal 2

We will advance the progress of learners at risk of educational disadvantage and learners with special educational needs in order to support them to achieve their potential.

Inclusive education is a fundamental principle of our education and training system – a system that welcomes and meaningfully engages all learners, including those with special educational needs and learners impacted by disadvantage.

While we have made considerable progress in advancing equity and equality of opportunity, there remain further challenges in putting in place measures to support the diverse needs of learners so that they can experience success and realise their potential.

We want to improve learning experiences, learning outcomes and progression for those at risk of educational disadvantage and support learners with special educational needs to participate and progress.

Strategic Actions

To achieve this goal we will implement the following strategic actions:

1. Implement the DEIS Plan in order to close the gap in performance between DEIS and non-DEIS schools, increase retention rates of DEIS students and increase the progression rates of DEIS students into HE and FET.
2. Explore innovative approaches to improving the outcomes for learners at greatest risk of educational disadvantage.
3. Progress the implementation of a school inclusion model to deliver the right supports at the right time to students with additional care needs.
4. Further progress the move towards a needs-based, responsive set of State supports for students with special educational needs, with a focus on improved measurable outcomes.
5. Implement strands of the National Access Plan to ensure that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels reflects the diversity and social mix of Ireland's population.



Goal 3

We will equip education and training providers with the skills and support to provide a quality learning experience.

Ireland is fortunate to have a highly skilled and dedicated teaching and training profession and we want to promote teaching as an exciting and worthwhile career. Those involved in the profession deliver to high standards and have established a strong international reputation.

Quality of provision is the foundation to the success of the education and training system. We recognise the fundamental roles that leaders, teachers and support staff play in this regard and we seek to strengthen the system's capacity as a whole to continuously improve and to deliver the highest quality education and training services for learners.

We want to develop the continuum of teacher education, improve and promote quality teaching in the early years, further education and training and higher education, and promote innovation and excellence.

Strategic Actions

To achieve this goal we will implement the following strategic actions:

1. Improve teacher education to provide practitioners with the right skills for 21st Century teaching, learning and assessment.
2. Use internal and external evaluation to improve quality and promote excellence in early years settings, schools, centres for education and other provision.
3. Build strong leadership practice in schools and promote innovation and excellence in leadership.
4. Support the further enhancement of professional qualifications and standards within the ELC sector and enhance the quality of learning experiences for young children in the ELC sector through the implementation of the quality framework, Sóлта and the curriculum framework, Aistear.
5. Increase the alignment of higher education and further education and training to achieve a more integrated tertiary education system.



Goal 4

We will intensify the relationships between education and the wider community, society and the economy.

As Ireland seeks to achieve strategic leadership in many chosen fields, the quality of the connections between our education and training system and the wider community will be a formative influence. Our success in this regard will contribute significantly to our ambition to have a quality education and training system. Research, development and innovation are critical to Ireland's future. We want to attract talent from around the world to our education institutions, engage in world-class research and collaborations and we want to ensure quality standards and best international practice for learners in Ireland.

We want to support local communities, strengthen the role of parents and students, provide greater school choice and enhanced supports for making informed career choices, including creating a greater diversity of lifelong learning opportunities.

Ireland is changing and the choices and expectations of citizens are changing with it. Our education service must be able to respond to these new expectations.

Our focus over the next three years will be on effectively engaging with business to play its part in building the talent base through the growth of traineeships and apprenticeships. We will support the Regional Skills Fora and the "Skills for Growth" initiative by developing new partnerships to make it easier for more employers to identify their future skill needs.

Strategic Actions

To achieve this goal we will implement the following strategic actions:

1. Strengthen the role of learners and parents in their engagements with the education and training system.
2. Progress the diversity of school type in order to offer parents and learners more choice.
3. Accelerate the restructuring of the higher and further education and training landscape to achieve regional socioeconomic and development priorities and provide enhanced opportunities for communities and individuals.
4. Maintain and improve standards of research and innovation in our higher education institutions, develop individual and collaborative talent and ensure there is tangible and positive impact upon society and the economy.
5. Promote and encourage lifelong learning and up-skilling and strengthen partnerships between employers, higher education and further education and training providers.



Goal 5

We will lead in the delivery of strategic direction and supportive systems in partnership with key stakeholders in education and training.

Education and training encompasses early years education, primary and second level education, further education and training and higher education, including supports for research and international education. Providing strategic leadership, developing policy and delivering services across the sector requires cooperation between the Department and a wide range of stakeholders, including the sectoral stakeholders, the broader public sector, the political system and Government Departments.

We want to strengthen strategic oversight and focus on delivery for results, deliver appropriate infrastructure for learning environments, and improve the quality of the national support services and shared services.

Strategic Actions

To achieve this goal we will implement the following strategic actions:

1. Implement the National Development Plan 2018-2027 and Project Ireland 2040 in respect of the schools' sector, higher education and further education and training.
2. Support the operation of high quality education and training services through sustainable funding models and other supports, based on data and agreed criteria.
3. Improve the quality of services across the sector through supporting a more integrated, shared and digital environment to support an efficient and effective service delivery.
4. Provide greater strategic direction in the Department's governance, management and use of data.
5. Advance the development of standards of excellence in governance and accountability across the education and training sector.



Key Indicators

The Department publishes a range of statistical reports which provide an overview of the different sectors of education and training. We also publish progress reports on strategies that are being implemented.

We will continue to report through the annual Action Plan process over the period 2019-2021 on our progress. In addition, we will continue to publish key statistics documents and updates on our implementation of our strategies.

Indicators that will be used to measure progress against the goals of the three year Strategy Statement include:

Size:	Total enrolments for Early Learning and Care (ELC), primary, post-primary, further education and training (FET) and higher education (HE)
Capacity:	Total number of education providers
Output:	Total graduates at all levels of the National Framework of Qualifications
Level of education:	Overall level of education of the population
Performance:	Performance of Irish students in Reading, Maths and Science (PISA and other national and international measures)

Appendix 1

Strategies

A number of key national education and training strategies underpin our work and drive the significant changes that are being planned and implemented across the continuum of education. Our whole-of-system approach enables us to integrate these strategies and monitor their progress as they each contribute towards our vision for education and training.



The **National Siolta Aistear Initiative**, is designed to define, assess and support the improvement of quality across all aspects of practice in early childhood care and education settings, for children from birth to six years.

It was established in 2016 to support the coordinated rollout of Siolta, The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education (Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education, 2006) and Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, 2009). It is funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and is being developed in collaboration with the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.



This **Wellbeing Policy Statement** provides an overarching structure encompassing existing, ongoing and developing work in this area including the Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework and Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum at the primary level, and the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Programme at the post primary level.

This policy is for all those with an interest in wellbeing promotion in education, clearly outlining best practice in this area.

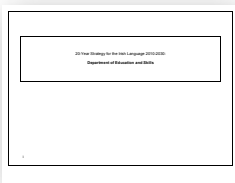


Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020 is the national strategy to improve literacy and numeracy standards among children and young people in the education system. This strategy seeks to address significant concerns about how well our young people are developing the literacy and numeracy skills that they will need to participate fully in the education system, to live satisfying and rewarding lives, and to participate as active and informed citizens in our society.

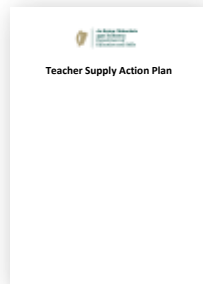


DEIS Plan 2017 aims at improving educational outcomes for learners at risk of educational disadvantage throughout the education continuum, including narrowing the gap between DEIS and non-DEIS schools in attendance, achievement and retention, and improving progression opportunities for learners in DEIS schools.

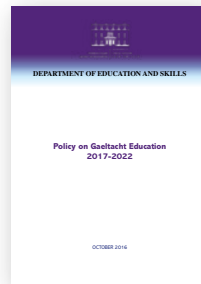
A revised model for allocating special education teachers to mainstream schools was introduced in 2017. The model is designed to be a fairer and better way to allocate special education teaching resources to support children with Special Educational Needs, and provides a single unified allocation for special educational support teaching needs to each school, based on that school's educational profile. Schools will deploy resources based on each pupil's individual learning needs.



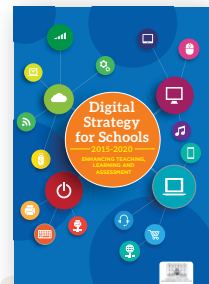
20 year strategy for the Irish Language - Implementation Plan outlines an integrated approach to the Irish language, in which 9 areas of action are specified: education, the Gaeltacht, the family, public services, the media, technology, dictionaries, legislation and the economy and cross-cutting initiatives. The relevant actions under the Strategy are being implemented by the various stakeholders, including this Department.



Teacher Supply Action Plan is a programme of actions to address issues about the supply of teachers. A number of the key actions in the plan aim to address the numbers of teacher graduates. The HEA is working with the Teaching Council and the Department of Education and Skills to examine how the Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) can best respond to the needs of the school system.



The overarching goal of the **Policy on Gaeltacht Education** is to ensure the availability of a high quality and relevant Irish-medium educational experience for young people living in Gaeltacht areas in order to support the use of Irish as the main language of families and of Gaeltacht communities. Specifically, the Policy aims to ensure that a sufficient number of schools and early-years' settings use Irish as the language of communication and instruction for all areas of learning (apart from English and other languages), in each of the Language-Planning Areas within the Gaeltacht (as set out under the Gaeltacht Act, 2012).



Digital Strategy for Schools 2015-2020, Enhancing Teaching, Learning and Assessment and outlines a vision for the embedding of digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment in primary and post-primary schools.

The Strategy outlines a programme of work across a number of themes:

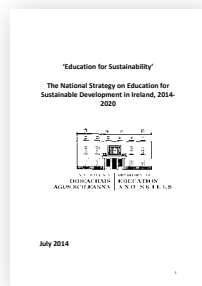
- Teaching, learning and assessment using information and communications technology (ICT)
- Teachers' Professional learning
- Leadership, research and policy
- ICT infrastructure



Languages Connect: Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026 sets out an ambitious roadmap and targets for the teaching and learning of foreign languages, through a number of measures targeted at improving proficiency, diversity and immersion.



STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026. The Plan is designed to equip learners with analytical, creativity and critical thinking skills to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world. The Plan includes an increased focus on encouraging traditionally under-represented groups to participate in STEM activities, increasing links between the education system and industry, and reviewing, the supports in place to ensure our teachers feel confident to incorporate STEM.



Education for Sustainable Development: The National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland, 2014-2020 aims to ensure that education contributes to sustainable development by equipping learners with the relevant knowledge, the key dispositions and skills, and the values that will motivate and empower them throughout their lives to become informed active citizens who take action for a more sustainable future in accordance with the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

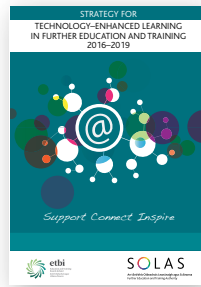


Irish Educated: Globally Connected The International Education Strategy 2016 - 2020 places a high quality learner experience, academic quality, research and mobility and a distinctive Irish offer at the centre of our delivery of International Education. It sets the overarching objective of Ireland becoming internationally recognised as a world leader in the delivery of high quality international education by providing a unique experience and long-term value to students.



National Skills Strategy.

The aim of the National Skills Council (NSC) is to make Ireland a leader in anticipating and responding to the rapidly changing skills needs across all sectors. The strategy was developed in the context of significant reform in the education and training sector to ensure a more dynamic, responsive and high quality system that provides all learners with the knowledge and skills they need to participate fully in society and the economy.



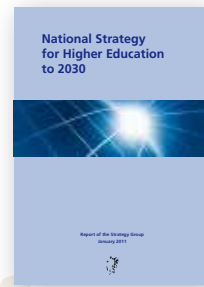
Strategy for Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) in Further Education and Training 2016-2019

aims to establish TEL as an intrinsic element of further education and training. Implementation will improve access to further education and training, equip learners with the skills and confidence to use technology as part of their work, study and home life and will enhance learner engagement in further education and training.



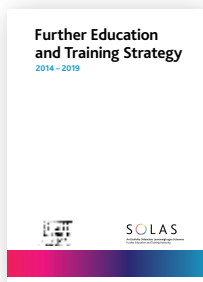
National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2021.

Equity of access to higher education is a key objective of Irish education policy, and the Implementation of the National Plan aims to ensure that the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels reflects the diversity and social mix of Ireland's population.



The National Strategy for Higher Education

sets out a vision of Irish higher education to 2030. It reaffirms the fundamental importance of excellent teaching and learning, quality in research and knowledge transfer, and effective engagement between higher education and society. In particular, it identified the challenge and opportunities of growing demand for higher education arising from Ireland's demographic growth, which is relatively unique in the European context.



Further Education and Training Strategy 2014-2019 aims to deliver a higher quality learning experience leading to better outcomes for all those who engage in FET. It presents a roadmap and implementation plan to realise the vision of a world class integrated system of further education and training in Ireland which will: support economic development; increase social inclusion; and meet the needs of all learners, communities and employers who engage with FET. FET Strategy is set within the context of Government reform of public services.



Action Plan to expand Apprenticeship and Traineeship in Ireland 2016-2020 Through the National Skills Strategy 2025, Ireland aims to significantly grow work-based learning over the coming five years using the apprenticeship and traineeship modes of learning and skills development. There is significant evidence of the positive impact of learning which is closely linked to the workplace.

Through this Action Plan, Ireland aims to establish work-based learning as a core contributor to our growth as a society and economy.



The Education and Training Sector Shared Services Plan 2017-2020 aims to further progress the initiatives identified in the Education and Training Sector Shared Services Plan 2014-2016. The plan for 2017-2020 includes plans for traditional Shared Services initiatives (such as HR, Payroll, Finance etc.). It also includes the plans and approach for alternative models of service delivery (AMSD), external service delivery (ESD) and the plans for the development of organisational structures necessary for the operation of Shared Services in the education and training sector.

Appendix 2

Bodies under the aegis of the Department

An Chomhairle um Oideachas
Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta



Residential institutions
Redress Committee



An Chomhairle
Mhúinteoireachta
The Teaching Council



The Commission to
Inquire into Child Abuse

Grangegorman
Development Agency
Gníomhaireacht Forbatha
Ghráinseach Ghormáin



Appendix 3

Acronyms

CECDE	Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education
CSMB	Civil Service Management Board
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools
DES	Department of Education and Skills
DEASP	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
ELC	Early Learning and Care
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
FET	Further Education and Training
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institute
HEA	Higher Education Authority
HR	Human Resources
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
NCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NDP	National Development Plan
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Service
NSAS	National Student Accommodation Strategy
NSC	National Skills Council
NTF	National Training Fund
NTRIS	National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland
SPHE	Social Personal and Health Education
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
TEL	Technology-Enhanced Learning
TUSLA	Child and Family Agency





An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

CUMASÚ

Ráiteas Straitéise 2019-2021

www.education.ie