



EDUCATION NEWSBRIEF

September 2011

Welcome back!

Have you:

- Ordered your *Follow Me Texts*? Order forms may be downloaded from www.followme-series.org
- Updated your Code of Behaviour to reflect any experiences from last year?
- Updated any other school policies and practices in light of last year's experience? (eg unexpected school closures; school parking and drop off/collection/transport; scheduling of staff meetings; school plays/events; school trips; protocols on visitors to the school; any home-school liaison experiences, fundraising; communications among staff and parents).
- Followed-up on any issues left unresolved in June?
- Planned a budget projection for the next school year based on your most recent audited accounts?
- Checked www.education.ie for up to date information, Circulars and information on any relevant grants?
- Planned a programme of work to allocate to SNA's and Resource Staff when necessary?
- Set out seniority lists for teachers and SNA's and ensured they are agreed?
- Confirmed that your insurance is up to date and covers both staff and students for 2011/12?
- Talked with the school care taker and discussed the cleaning of the school for the coming school year?
- Thought about what to do if you need a substitute teacher at short notice?
- **Booked your holidays for the mid-term break!!!!**

Children First 2011 National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children

was launched on 15 July 2011 by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Francis Fitzgerald, TD.



The new Guidance updates the original 1999 publication. According to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the new Guidance incorporates the lessons that have been learned regarding child protection in the intervening period. It also widens the scope of child protection to include such areas as neglect and bullying.

Children First 2011 and supporting resources are available for download at:

www.dcyu.gov.ie/viewdoc.asp?DocID=1589

The launch of Children First 2011 and the beginning of the school year provides a timely opportunity to review Child Protection in the school.

If undertaking a review, the following could be included in a checklist:

- Has the school a child protection policy?
- Has the policy been ratified by the Board of Management?
- Is the policy in compliance with Children First National Guidelines?
- Have all staff been provided with a copy of the schools Child Protection policy?
- Have you appointed and named your DLP and Deputy DLP?
- Are contact details for An Garda Síochána and the HSE duty social workers available to all staff?
- Has the school a vetting policy in place and is this being adhered to?

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CHURCH OF IRELAND BOARD OF EDUCATION (RI)



Out & About! Events & Conferences



The Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross with Mr Ruairi Quinn, TD, Minister for Education and Skills at the ACCS Conference held in April in Wexford.



From left: Bill Perrot, CIPSMAs Chairperson; Peter Dowd, CIPSMAs Treasurer; The Bishop of Cashel and Ossory; The Rev Janina Ainsworth, Secretary, Church of England Board of Education; The Rev Dr Norman Gamble, Secretary, CIPSMAs; Dr Ken Fennelly, Secretary, Church of Ireland Board of Education.

New Primary School Boards of Management Elections & Training

The term of current Primary School Boards of Management will come to an end on 30th November 2011. New Boards of Management will be elected to serve for the next four year term from 2011 to 2015. A step by step guide to election procedures will be circulated by the Board of Education to all chairpersons of the Board of Management in September. School Patrons will be in contact with all schools from November regarding the training and induction to be provided to the new Boards. The training is designed and funded by the Department of Education and Skills but is delivered on behalf of the Patron.

Redeployment

The manner in which redeployment was managed in 2011 directly impacted on those primary schools across the country seeking to fill their permanent vacancies and fixed term vacancies. Circular 0019/2011 issued in March 2011, provided that no school could be given the authority to commence recruitment until the Department of Education and Skills was in a position to assess the overall number of surplus teachers on panels of all patronage that remained to be redeployed. Limited alleviation was given by the Department on the 24 June in relation to the filling of fixed term vacancies subject to certain restrictions. On 22 July, schools within the boundaries of the Catholic Dioceses of Meath, Dublin, Ferns and Kildare and Leighlin were sanctioned to proceed to fill remaining fixed term vacancies and permanent vacancies by open recruitment. Further sanction was given in respect of other dioceses in the following weeks. The restriction on recruitment caused huge inconvenience and frustration for schools trying to plan for the school year 2011/2012. The late sanctioning of open recruitment coupled with the strict timelines set out in Appendix D, resulted in a number of schools being unable to fill their vacancies prior to the commencement of the new school year. The frustrations and difficulties experienced by schools as a result of these measures were emphasised to the Department by the Board of Education on numerous occasions.

Special Needs Assistants

Schools are referred to the advisory note issued by the Department of Education and Skills circulated on the 11 August 2011. The DES issued the advisory note in an effort to clarify for schools the implications of the revised arrangements for the allocation of SNA posts by the National Council for Special Education. The information is intended to provide clarity to schools and to ensure that SNA salaries are paid promptly and accurately from the start of the school year. This note was circulated by the Board of Education to all Church of Ireland schools and has also been published on the DES's website www.education.ie.

Schools Survey 2011



Many thanks to all who helped with or participated in the Survey of Church of Ireland Primary Schools which was carried out in late May 2011.

The focus of the survey concerned parental attitudes and their decision to send their child/children to Church of Ireland Schools. The survey was distributed to the parents of junior infant classes and sixth classes in all Church of Ireland schools. The preliminary results of the survey have indicated interesting and useful information in relation to why parents choose Church of Ireland schools for their children. The preliminary findings were presented at the National Forum on Primary Level School Patronage. Data gathered from the survey is currently being compiled by an independent social researcher and will be made available when the findings are complete.

Organisation and support for the survey was a collaborative venture between the Church of Ireland Primary School Management Association (CIPSMA); the Church of Ireland Board of Education and the Church of Ireland College of Education.

Education, the Economy & the Recession...

The state of the national economy continues to impact on the funding and operations of the education system. The National Plan for Economic Recovery sets out the reductions across all areas of government spending for the next three years. For education, the target reductions are €312 million in 2011 and additional reductions of €379 million to be made by 2014, thus a total €691million euro will be taken out of the budget for education over the next three years.

The impact of the budget cuts for 2011 has been felt across the board eg. a decrease in grant and capitation funding, changes to school transport, changes in relation to the management of redeployment and a cap on SNA numbers.

As a school management body, the Board of Education will continue to raise its concerns in respect of the implementation of budgetary cuts and other general funding issues with the Department of Education.

Welcome New Archbishop



Pictured after his Installation as Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough is The Most Rev Dr Micheal Jackson with His Grace, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.

The United Archdiocese of Dublin and Glendalough welcomed a new Archbishop recently. The Most Rev Dr Michel Jackson has been Bishop of Clogher since 2002 and previously was Dean of Cork. Dr Jackson was a third level lecturer for many years and has taught in the Universities of Oxford, Cork, Trinity College, Dublin and in the C.I.T.I. and has also served as chaplain in Oxford, UCC and C.I.T. Dr Jackson was ordained in 1986. As Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough, Dr. Jackson is the Patron of 49 primary schools and also either chairs or is a member of the Board of Governors of a number of Protestant second-level schools in Dublin. As Bishop of Clogher, his Grace chaired the Board of Governors of Monaghan Collegiate School. His Grace chairs the (RI) Board of Education, the Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Board of Education and the Board of the Church of Ireland College of Education and is a member of the Board of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. As an academic, Dr Jackson has published widely and has a particular interest in inter-faith relations. In welcoming the new Archbishop we send best wishes to Archbishop Neill who, having served twenty five years as a bishop with nine years as Archbishop of Dublin and Glendalough, is enjoying a well deserved retirement!

Don't Forget!!!

Follow Me RE textbooks can be purchased through the website!!!
www.followme-series.org/order

Circulars published since January 2011 edition

Please refer to the actual circular as the following are necessarily abbreviated.

GENERAL

0050/2011

Home Tuition Scheme 2011/2012

0045/2011

Minimum Notice Period for Retirement

0042/2011

Staffing Arrangements in Special Schools

0040/2011

New Pay Scales for New Appointees to Teaching in 2011

0037/2011

Revised Arrangements for the Provision of Resource Teaching Supports for the 2011/12 school year.

0036/2011

Cycle to Work Scheme

0034/2011

Standardisation of the School Year in respect of Primary & Post-Primary Schools for the years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14

0031/2011

Teacher Recruitment Registration and Qualifications

0030/2011

Arrangements for the 2011/2012 School Year in Relation to Learning Support/Resource Teacher (LS/RT) and Resource Teacher (RT) Posts – Full and Part-time Posts

0028/2011

Revised Promotion Procedures for Appointment to Deputy Principal, Assistant Principal and Special Duties Teacher in Recognised Primary Schools

0023/2011

Allocation to schools for books

0020/2011

Circular to the management authorities of national schools on the assessment of need process under the Disability Act 2005

0019/2011

Notification to all primary schools about the staffing schedule for the 2011/2012 school year, arrangements for filling teaching posts and the redeployment/panel arrangements. NB the latest date for filling a permanent post on a permanent basis is the first working day in November 2011. Thereafter a permanent post may be filled only on a fixed term basis unless

the appointee is a permanent or CID holding teacher from a redeployment panel. Principals are excluded from this arrangement.

0018/2011

Scheme of capital grants for emergency works

0017/2011

Revised arrangements for the provision of teaching supports to Traveller students

0016/2011

Revised Rates of Pay in Respect of Supervision/Substitution for the 2010/2011 School Year 012/2011

Teacher fee refund scheme

0011/2011

Maternity protection entitlements for registered teachers

0010/2011

Career break scheme for registered teachers

0008/2011

Implementation of the Croke Park Agreement

0007/2011

Public health advice to schools from the Health Service Executive on the seasonal influenza

SPECIAL EDUCATION

NCSE 04/11

Amendment to NCSE Guidelines to Schools - 01/11 & 02/11

0021/2011

Educational Qualifications for Appointment as Special Needs Assistant in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools

0006/2011

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