



# EDUCATION NEWSBRIEF

September 2010

## Welcome back!

### Have you:

- ordered your *Follow Me Texts*? Order forms may be downloaded from [www.followme-series.org](http://www.followme-series.org)
- updated your Code of Behaviour and had it ratified by your patron?
- planned a budget projection for the next school year based on your most recent audited accounts?
- applied for relevant grants?
- planned programmes of work for the periods when SNAs or other ancillary staff will be on hand?
- a proposal in mind if the Summer Works grant is available in 2011?
- ensured that all pupils and staff are covered by accident insurance in the coming school year?
- appointed a new principal? In which case have you encouraged them to avail of training from LDS Leadership Development Service and support and mentoring from IPPN?
- set out the seniority lists for teachers and for SNAs and ensured they are agreed?
- checked the eligibility of parental representatives on the Board of Management?
- had a good summer?



*The Secretary, Dr. Fennelly, pictured above at the Palace, Cork, with primary and secondary school principals from the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross where he spoke at the recent Patron's Day. The Secretary would like to extend his thanks to The Rt. Rev. Paul Colton, Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross for the invitation. The Secretary would also like to thank the Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Rev John Neill, for the invitation to speak at the Patron's Day for the Archdiocese of Dublin and Glendalough which was held earlier this year. The Secretary has also been invited to speak at the Patrons days in the Diocese of Limerick and the Diocese of Cashel and Ossory. He looks forward to meeting with school principals at these events. These are very useful opportunities for all involved in education in the Church of Ireland in a particular diocese to get together and discuss issues of common concern.*

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CHURCH OF IRELAND  
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# Employee Assistance Service (EAS)

The Employee Assistance Service (EAS) provides confidential counselling to teachers and their immediate family members.



The Employee Assistance Service offers teachers a facility that is confidential, easily accessed and provides properly qualified and supervised practitioners.

During 2008, a review of the evaluations received regarding the EAS reveal that 100% of individuals would use the service again, 100% would recommend the service to others and 100% believe that the EAS is a positive benefit provided by the Department of Education & Science.

## What is an Employee Assistance Service?

The purpose of the EAS is to provide teachers and their immediate family members with easy access to confidential short term counselling and to assist in coping with the effect of personal and work-related issues. The service was introduced in 2006 as a benefit to teachers and is funded by the Department of Education and Science.

## Who is the service available to?

The service is available to teachers whose positions are funded by the Department of Education and Science, their spouses or partners, their dependents above the age of 16 and mother/ father where appropriate and can be accessed by a dedicated freephone number or email address.

## What services are available?

Telephone Counselling – single sessions or up to six counselling sessions.

Face to Face counselling – up to six counselling sessions.

**The EAS is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.**

For additional information on the EAS just click on to the Vhi Website:

[http://www.vhi.ie/dep\\_edu\\_science/index.jsp](http://www.vhi.ie/dep_edu_science/index.jsp)

## Contact:

**Telephone: 1800 411 057**

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# CICE Update

The new cohort of first year B.Eds arrived to register in CICE on Wednesday 1st September. We were delighted to welcome a group that includes three mature students and three male students. They start their B.Ed studies with a few weeks in the Connemara Gaeltacht and then begin their programme here from 27th September. Our B.Ed students remain registered Trinity students with access to all its services and facilities and will graduate with a Trinity degree. However, this is the first year when a lesser element of their teaching will happen on campus in Trinity. This change is primarily driven by all of our recognition that student-teachers need a greater opportunity to integrate theory and practice from the very beginning of their studies.

We are planning to place a greater emphasis on the study of teaching from a very early stage in this group's experience. Thanks to the great generosity of schools and teachers in the Dublin area, first years have, for the last few years, spent a number of Fridays ahead of the commencement of Teaching Practice visiting classrooms where they were mainly observing. This enabled them to benefit from the experience and insights of practising teachers and to familiarise themselves with young children as learners. It is our intention, in dialogue with schools, to expand that experiential programme this year. We also plan to link the theoretical elements of the first year programme closely with school experience.

All of us here in CICE wish our primary teachers and schools a very successful school year. We look forward to welcoming many of you to events to celebrate the bicentennial of the founding of the Kildare Place Society, out of which this College grew, during 2011.

## Hi-Visability Vests

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) are delivering some 80,000 luminous vests to primary schools nationwide for all junior infant pupils.



Chief executive Noel Brett also called on parents and teachers to make road safety a priority on their child's back-to-school checklist.

# Schools Inspections

The Secretary recently met with Dr. Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector at the Department of Education and Skills. Dr. Hislop outlined the new arrangements in relation to whole school evaluations and forms of school inspections.

In general terms, the future forms of inspections will be that notifications will be sent five weeks before the inspection will begin (to facilitate making appointments and gathering information). Dr. Hislop pointed out that this is longer than the three weeks originally envisaged and is in response to representations by the Church of Ireland Board of Education earlier in the process.

Secondly that the schools inspection will be on an ongoing or "rolling" basis rather than June and November, as previously. The Department expects that the paperwork related to the visit will be halved and that they will look at mainly (be not limited to): written policies on Child Protection, Enrolment, Assessment and Curriculum plans.

The Inspectorate will be cutting the number of subjects to be examined to four out of the eleven (excluding RE) to: English, Irish, Maths and one other from the seven remaining. The examination of this subject will be done in a strategic way across the country. The idea behind this change is to allow inspectors go into more depth in their reviews rather than doing a superficial review of all eleven subjects.

A key part of the inspection process will be the use of questionnaires to pupils. In the course of consultation on the new inspection process, concerns were expressed that these questionnaires would be open to being used by the DES for other purposes and confidentiality was raised also. Dr. Hislop has advised that the types of questionnaires that are to be used are 1) under the terms of Data Protection legislation and 2) will not be seen or reviewed by inspectors or DES officials but are designed to be machine readable so individual comments made outside boxes ticked will not be machine readable and therefore automatically discarded. When the process is completed, the information will be disposed of. There are also new agreements in relation to post-inspection feedback. The inspectors will meet with the board of management, staff representative, parent representative and also the patrons representative, should the patron wish to send a representative, which marks a key change from the previous post-inspection feedback.

# Improvements to Primary School Annual Census 2010

Purpose of this Note - to inform you about possible changes and improvements to the Primary School Annual Census with effect from Thursday 30 September 2010. The Department of Education and Skills is aiming to improve the delivery of the Census each year by reducing the administrative burden on schools and by streamlining the process of approving, collecting and checking data from schools.

Each year, the DE&S Statistics Section collects data from all national schools. This information is used for a variety of purposes including the provision of information to determine the amount paid in pupil capitation grant to schools, ancillary services capitation payments and teacher allocations. The information is used to generate statistics of enrolment by size of school, class size and other areas of interest.

## Planned improvements to the Census in 2010:

It is planned to improve the process of collecting data enabling schools to make the Census return through Esinet. The same file format of spreadsheets will be used but it is also planned that schools will be able to upload the file through Esinet avoiding the use of email. This is under development and should have a number of advantages. Esinet provides:

- 1) a more secure and reliable environment in which to transmit data;
- 2) larger file capacity;
- 3) an electronic receipt so



schools will know exactly when their return was transferred to DES.

## Possible technical and other difficulties:

Schools that are using Internet Explorer 6 as their internet browser may have to update their browsers. It is planned to provide a Help Desk from 30th September 2010. Schools will be able to download the form and instructions from the DES website.

## Pilot:

In early September 2010 a number of schools will be asked to pilot the use of Esinet to upload and transfer data to the Department.

## Circulars published since April 2010 edition

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

### 0026/2010

Conclusion of the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (swine flu) school vaccination programme from 31st March 2010.

### 0032/2010

Brief Absences for Special Needs Assistants In Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.

### 0033/2010

Sick Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.

### 0034/2010

Introduction of Occupational Health Strategy for Special Needs Assistants in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.

### 0035/2010

Unpaid Leave for Registered Teachers in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.

### 0038/2010 (Special Education)

Staffing arrangements and the role of National Council for Special Education.

### 0040/2010

Teacher Recruitment Registration Qualifications.

### 0042/2010

Limited alleviation of moratorium on filling of Posts of Responsibility for 2010/11 school year.

Commencement of revised promotion procedures in second level schools.

### 0043/2010

Restoration of Book Grants.

### 0046/2010

Cycle to Work Scheme For 2011 and Subsequent Years - Information for management authorities of Primary, Secondary, Community and Comprehensive Schools of the Cycle to Work Scheme for 2011 and subsequent years.

### 0048/2010

Substitute cover for registered teachers employed in primary schools - Arrangements for the 2010/2011 School Year.

### 0053/2010

Payment of Full Metered Water Charges in all schools.

## Important Notice for those commencing a Teacher Education Qualification outside of Ireland from 2011

### Revised procedures for the registration of teachers under Council Directive 2005/36/EC (EEA Countries) in Ireland

The Teaching Council is the designated authority for the recognition of teaching qualifications under Council Directive 2005/36/EC in Ireland. To ensure compliance with The Teaching Council's recently published Registration Regulations and the Directive, the Council wishes to advise of revised procedures for the assessment of teaching qualifications coming within the terms of the Directive.

Persons wishing to apply for registration under the terms of the Directive must be fully recognised/registered as teachers in another EEA Member State and provide certification thereof when applying for registration with the Teaching Council of Ireland.

In practice, this means that persons commencing a teacher education qualification in another EEA Member State from 01/01/2011 onwards must also complete any required period of post-qualification professional practice (e.g. N.Q.T. or Induction year) and be fully recognised/registered under the terms of the Directive 2005/36/EC by the designated authority of that Member State prior to seeking registration with The Teaching Council in Ireland.

This update does not change existing arrangements for those persons who have commenced a teaching qualification outside of Ireland prior to 31/12/2010.

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