

E-scéal - 31 April 2020



Dear {FIRST\_NAME|Member}

This e-scéal contains useful information on the following:

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**Pairic Clerkin, IPPN CEO Address to Members**



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### **Access to Schools – Guidance**

Many school leaders have been put under pressure to arrange access to school buildings for staff and parents. The directive from the DES is quite clear in that schools will be closed until further notice and that access to the school building is only permitted to make arrangements for



the distribution of food under the School Meals Programme, for payroll arrangements and urgent security/maintenance matters. Schools are instructed to await an official directive from the Chief Medical Officer with regard to any changes

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### **SNA Allocations for 2020/21 School Year**

The DES has published **DES circular 30/2020** regarding SNA allocation arrangements for the 2020/2021 school year.

Supporting guidance and further information has been published by the **NCSE** and is available on the homepage of their website.

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### **Capitation Grant Update**

The Capitation Grant will continue to be paid to schools to enable Boards of Management to retain ancillary staff on their payrolls and to meet other school running costs.

**[Click here to view DES Guidance on Contract and Employment Issues](#)**

**[Click here to view FSSU Guidance](#)**

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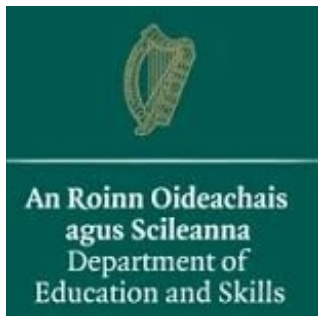


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### **Section 29 Appeals**

The DES has published guidance on facilitating, hearing and determining



appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 during Covid-19.

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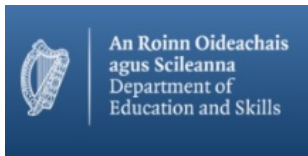
### Standardised Tests – Cancelled



The DES has confirmed the cancellation of standardised tests for the 2019/2020 school year in light of all schools being currently closed under Covid-19 restrictions and with uncertainty as to when and how schools will re-open. The DES have advised that when schools re-open, the focus for teachers and the whole school community will be on settling the children and returning to normality in the classroom.

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### Part-Time Teaching/SEN Hours



IPPN sought clarification from the DES in relation to part-time resource teaching hours that, due to school closures, would more than likely be unused for the 2019/2020 school year. The DES have confirmed that there is no facility on the OLCS for hours to be rolled over from one year to the next. Teaching/SEN hours for an academic year are relevant to that particular year only. Unfortunately, if the hours are not used this year, they are effectively lost.

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### SEN School Transport Update



In consultation with NCSE, the DES has published details of the temporary application process for SEN Transport to allow continuation of applications during Covid-19 restrictions. Applications may now be submitted via email.

A dedicated phone support line is available to parents/guardians who may require assistance in making an application – phone 087 4107037.

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### Communication Between Home and School



Right now, no principal has a blueprint for leading learning in a “virtual school”. However, as school leader, you do know your school community, pupils, parents and staff. Every school is unique in its own way. When schools closed on 12th March, teachers assigned work and books were distributed in an effort to support learning at home. Previous to this, we could tell how things were going in our schools by visiting classrooms and the many conversations before, during and after school each day. The closure of school buildings has removed this vital communication, which is core to our work as principals. Therefore, we have had to rethink our approach to connecting with our school

communities.

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Irish Primary Principals' Network  
National Support Office  
Glounthaune  
Co. Cork  
T45 D544  
t: 1890 21 22 23  
e: [info@ippn.ie](mailto:info@ippn.ie)  
[www.ippn.ie](http://www.ippn.ie)

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