

Subject:

DELIVERING THE ENTITLEMENT FRAMEWORK: GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS 2017/18

DE Circular Number: 2017/07

Date of Issue: 27 April 2017

Target Audience:

- Principals and Boards of Governors (BoG) of all grant-aided post-primary schools and special schools with secondary departments;
- Education Authority (EA);
- Further and Higher Education Colleges (F&HE);
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS);
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta (CnaG);
- Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE);
- Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA);
- General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI).

Summary of Contents:

This circular, issued by the Department of Education, details the 2017/18 EF support arrangements for the delivery of the Entitlement Framework.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the content of this Circular should be addressed to:

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Governor Awareness: Essential

Status of Contents:

For information and action by schools

Related Documents:

DE Circular 2010/13
DE Circular 2011/09
DE Circular 2011/26
DE Circular 2012/09
DE Circular 2013/10
DE Circular 2014/15
DE Circular 2015/16
DE Circular 2016/10

Expiry Date: N/A

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Introduction

The purpose of this circular is to set out the Entitlement Framework (EF) funding arrangements and requirements for the 2017/18 academic year.

A Budget for the 2017/18 financial year has not yet been agreed, however to ensure continuity of services until an incoming administration is in place, funding to the end of June 2017 is being released for collaboratively delivered courses at the same level as in the previous financial year. **Further information on support funding for schools who actively participate in an Area Learning Community will follow at a later date.**

The funding arrangements for 2017/18 financial year (for courses delivered in the 2016/17 academic year) are as follows:

- Funding will continue to be awarded for courses delivered collaboratively with FE;
- Funding will continue to be awarded for courses delivered collaboratively with other schools, and;
- Special Schools will continue to be funded for courses delivered collaboratively.

EF Funding Formula 2017/18

The ***EF funding is provided as a contribution to costs*** associated with the collaborative delivery of Key Stage 4 (KS4) and post-16 courses. Schools receive their core funding via the Local Management of Schools (LMS) budget allocation to deliver the curriculum which includes the EF.

The funding allocated is paid retrospectively for courses that have been delivered through collaboration in the 2016/17 school year. No decisions have been taken with regards to further EF funding beyond the allocation set out in this circular, as this will be subject to the decisions of an incoming administration.

The additional cost attached to the participation of SEN pupils in the EF continues to be recognised through applying a different formula to special schools to ensure a slightly higher level of support.

The rate per pupil remains the same as in the previous year and the formulae for calculating the 2017/18 EF contribution will be as set out below:

Key Stage 4 - 120glh x £53/ 2/ 14

Special Schools - 140glh x £53/ 2/10

Post-16 - 320glh x £53/ 2/ 20

It must be emphasised that the figures used in the different elements of the formulae do not reflect the Department's position on actual cost per hour or class size numbers. As in previous years, the figures within the formulae have been adjusted to enable the Department to stay within the allocated budget, nothing more should be inferred.

School to school collaboration will continue to be calculated as a percentage of the FE collaboration formulae.

New Courses

Schools are reminded that they have flexibility to inform and amend their curricular offer to respond to growth areas in the economy and take account of DfE's priority skills areas.

If a school wishes to use a qualification which has not been approved by the Department, for use in schools in NI, a request for approval must be submitted by completing a Qualification Approval Request Form by email to:

qualsapprovals@education-ni.gov.uk. This should be done before course delivery commences.

Please note that Level 2 courses should have at least 120 Guided Learning Hours (GLHs) and Level 3 courses should have at least 360 GLHs

Delivery of Professional and Technical Qualifications

If the qualification meets the requirements of the appropriate level and guided learning hours, and provided it is delivered in an appropriate setting, then it can count towards a school's curricular offer. If a school is attempting to deliver a professional/technical qualification in a standard classroom setting, this would give the Department cause for concern given that they are work based qualifications, and this would not count towards the school's offer.

Further information on the approval of new courses and delivery of professional and technical qualifications can be found in Circular 2016/25, 'Approval of Qualifications for Use in Post-Primary Schools in Northern Ireland'.

Service Level Agreements

Schools are reminded of the need to ensure that a Service Level Agreement (SLA) is in place before collaborative provision commences. Article 21 of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 allows schools to enter into arrangements to provide secondary education on behalf of the school by an institute of Further Education or other provider. Any such arrangements are subject to a written agreement which must include specific details on issues including pastoral care and child protection, quality of provision, the basis for any costs to be incurred or charged and any other issues deemed necessary by the school's Board of Governors. Schools should ensure that this documentation is available within the school if required at any point in the school year.

Reporting pupil results

Schools are also reminded that there is a duty of care to ensure that all results of public examinations are recorded for each individual pupil. As a pupil can only be

registered at one school it is important that the school at which a pupil is registered ensures it receives the result of a course undertaken at any other host school, FE College or other institution and reflects this in any of their statistical returns to the Department. It is the responsibility of a school, FE College or other institution providing a course to enter pupils for public examinations which are part of that course. All arrangements relating to entering a pupil for examinations, associated payment of fees, receipt and reporting of results should be clearly reflected as part of the SLA.

Special Schools

Funding for Special Schools will be awarded for collaboratively delivered courses

Post-16 provision

Since 1 April 2005 the establishment of sixth form provision not already in place at that time has been regarded as a significant change in the character of the school. Such provision is subject to the Development Proposal Procedure. Any school offering sixth form provision that has not been granted the required approval will not be eligible for EF additional funding for post-16 pupils.

2017/18 Entitlement Framework Requirements

From September 2017, in order to meet the full statutory requirements of the EF, all post primary schools will be required to provide pupils with access to a minimum number of 21 courses at KS 4 and 21 courses at post-16; of which at least one third must be general and one third applied.



JOAN CASSELLS
Head of 14-19 Curriculum Entitlement Team

ANNEX A

2017/18 EF SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS – FUNDING LETTERS

1	EF Audit Formula	Based on schools' EF curricular entries, i.e. the number and type of courses (applied/general) and number of pupils. Courses must be delivered collaboratively.
2	SEN Pupils in Mainstream	Courses must be delivered collaboratively. General/Applied and Not Eligible courses included.