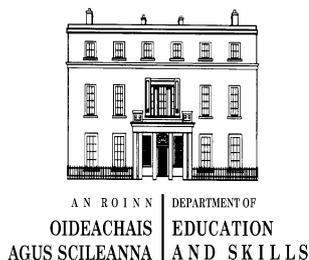


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Circular Number 0027/2012

To: The Management Authorities of all Post-Primary schools.

Revised syllabuses in Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Mathematics for Leaving Certificate examination in 2014 and Junior Certificate examination in 2015

1 Revised syllabuses in Mathematics – Phase 3 of Project Maths.

The implementation of Project Maths began in all schools in September 2010. The programme is being phased in over 3 years covering the following five strands of the mathematics curriculum:

Phase 1	Strand 1 (Statistics and Probability) and Strand 2 (Geometry and Trigonometry)
Phase 2	Content from Phase 1 in addition to Strand 3 (Number) and Strand 4 (Algebra)
Phase 3	Content from Phases 1 and 2 with Strand 5 (Functions)

The implementation is being scheduled as set out below.

Phase	Syllabus strands changed	24 Project schools commence	24 Project schools sit changed examinations	All other schools commence	All other schools sit changed examinations
1	Strands 1-2	Sept 2008	JC 2011 LC 2010	Sept 2010	JC 2013 LC 2012
2	Strands 1-4	Sept 2009	JC 2012 LC 2011	Sept 2011	JC 2014 LC 2013
3	Strands 1-5	Sept 2010	JC 2013 LC 2012	Sept 2012	JC 2015 LC 2014

In recent days, your school has been issued with Mathematics Syllabuses for Junior and Leaving Certificate which apply to students beginning first year junior cycle and the first year of Leaving Certificate in September 2012. These syllabuses include revised Strands 1-5. These syllabuses apply to the cohorts sitting examinations in the Junior Certificate in 2015 and in the Leaving Certificate in 2014 only.

Special care should be taken to ensure that the syllabus used for each class group is the correct one for their examination year. The syllabus for Junior Certificate Mathematics issued in 2010 must also be retained and will continue to apply to students sitting the Junior Certificate examination in 2013. The syllabuses issued in 2011 must also be retained and continue to apply to students sitting Leaving Certificate in 2013 and the Junior Certificate in 2014.

Copies of the syllabuses for the relevant examination year groups should be retained in the school until the implementation cycle is complete. They will also be available at www.ncca.ie and www.education.ie

Updated resources and information on emerging developments will continue to be provided at www.projectmaths.ie and www.ncca.ie/projectmaths. The Project Maths Development Team, hosted by Drumcondra Education Centre, will provide continuing professional development for all mathematic teachers. The Team will keep in contact with all schools regarding professional development opportunities. The programme of support will continue in this academic year 2012/2013.

2 National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy

Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People, 2011 - 2020 was launched on 8 July 2011. A copy of the Strategy is available for download from the Department's website, www.education.ie. A printed summary of the key measures in the Strategy, in booklet form, was sent to post-primary schools in June 2012.

The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy seeks to enhance achievement in literacy and numeracy in our schools. The Strategy includes a number of recommendations in relation to the curriculum, building the capacity of school leaders, enhancing teaching skills through the provision of continuing professional development, strengthening and extending the duration of initial teacher education, and promoting a greater awareness among parents and the community of the importance of literacy and numeracy. These recommendations are being implemented over the life span of the Strategy.

As a first step, all post-primary schools were asked in last year's circular on mathematics (see [Circular 0058/2011](http://www.education.ie/circularsandforms) on www.education.ie/circularsandforms)

- to make every effort to ensure that **students have access to a mathematics class every day**, particularly in junior cycle, from the earliest possible date
- that Transition Year, where available, should be used to provide innovative learning opportunities and increased mathematics teaching hours to the extent feasible as an important part of the Strategy to develop core transferable skills

- that every effort should be made, insofar as is possible, to deploy teachers who hold a qualification in mathematics to mathematics teaching. This is particularly important in the formative years of junior cycle.

These requirements were also brought to the attention of post-primary schools in Circular [0025/2012](#) on the implementation of the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy that was issued in June 2012.

The Department has recently put in place a Professional Diploma in Mathematics for Teaching, which is aimed at "out-of-field" teachers of mathematics at post-primary level. It covers mathematical content and knowledge, and teaching and learning strategies/approaches relevant to the Project Maths syllabi. The course will be available nationwide free of charge, with specific provision for teachers in Irish-medium schools. It will be accredited jointly by the University of Limerick (UL) and National University of Ireland Galway through their strategic alliance. The National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning at UL will be responsible for all aspects of course design, delivery and administration. The first group of teachers will commence this autumn with capacity for approximately 400 teachers. The course is full for 2012/ 2013 but it will be repeated in 2013/ 2014. All queries on eligibility or on applications should be made through the University of Limerick.

Schools are also asked to provide optimum support and encouragement to as many students as possible who have taken higher-level mathematics in junior cycle to continue to study the subject at higher level in senior cycle. The number of candidates sitting the Higher Level Leaving Certificate Mathematics in 2012 has increased by 35% on previous years and this is to be welcomed.

From 2012, an additional 25 bonus CAO points will be available from higher education institutions for candidates who score Grade D3 or higher in the Higher Level Leaving Certificate Mathematics examination. These arrangements have been agreed by higher education institutions for a four- year trial period from 2012 to 2015 inclusive, with a review in 2014.

3 General

Please bring this Circular to the notice of all mathematics teachers in your school.

Please also provide a copy of this Circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Breda Naughton,
Principal Officer
September 2012