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## Circular Number 0058/2011

**To : The Management Authorities of all schools OTHER THAN THE 24 PROJECT MATHS SCHOOLS.**

**Revised syllabuses in Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Mathematics for Leaving Certificate examination in 2013 and Junior Certificate examination in 2014**

### 1 Revised syllabuses in Mathematics – Phase 2 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 September 2010, all schools, other than the 24 Project Schools, were issued with the syllabuses for Mathematics applicable to students sitting the Junior Certificate examination in 2013, and the Leaving Certificate examination in 2012. These syllabuses included the revised Strands 1 and 2, with the remaining elements unchanged from previous years.

**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 2011.**

**These syllabuses include revised Strands 1-4. The remaining strand is unchanged from previous years. These syllabuses apply to**

**(a) all schools other than the 24 Project Maths schools and**

**(b) the cohorts sitting examinations in the Junior Certificate in 2014 and in the Leaving Certificate in 2013 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 syllabuses issued in 2010 must also be retained and continue to apply to students sitting Junior Certificate in 2013 and Leaving Certificate in 2012.

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](http://www.ncca.ie).

Updated resources and information on emerging developments will continue to be provided at [www.projectmaths.ie](http://www.projectmaths.ie) and [www.ncca.ie/projectmaths](http://www.ncca.ie/projectmaths). The Project Maths Development Team, hosted by Drumcondra Education Centre, will keep in contact with all schools regarding professional development opportunities. The programme of support will continue to at least 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 on the Department's website, [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). A printed summary of the key measures in the Strategy in booklet form is being developed for issue to schools.

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 time.

As a first step, all post-primary schools are asked

- 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.

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. An additional 25 bonus CAO points will be available from 2012 to candidates who score Grade D3 or higher in Higher Level Mathematics in the Leaving Certificate 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 the school.

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

Margaret Kelly  
Principal Officer  
September 2011