

Rannóg Pholasáí, Cháilíochtaí,  
Churaclaim agus Mheasúnachta,  
An Roinn Oideachais agus  
Scileanna, Bloc 2, Sráid  
Maoilbhríde,  
Baile Átha Cliath 1

☎ (01) 8892384



Qualifications, Curriculum  
and Assessment Policy Unit,  
Department of Education and  
Skills, Block 2 Marlborough  
Street,  
Dublin 1

Fax (01) 8892040

0040/2013

## To: Management Authorities of Post-Primary Schools

### Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

1. The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is one of the programme options available within Senior Cycle. There are in excess of 500 schools (of some 730) providing the LCVP at present.
2. The purposes of this circular are:
  - to inform the management authorities of post-primary schools of the terms and conditions that apply to the LCVP;
  - to highlight that Continuing Professional Development is available for schools, who wish to offer the programme.
3. Schools currently approved to offer the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme may cater for a further LCVP student intake in the future in accordance with the programme requirements outlined later in this circular. The programme requirements must be met in full in a single school/centre for a student to be deemed an eligible LCVP student. This circular replaces [circular 13/2009](#).
4. Support for schools currently offering the LCVP and for schools new to the programme is provided by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). Participation in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a requirement for all new schools offering the LCVP. Support is provided to assist teachers and schools in planning, implementing and evaluating the programme. In addition to the whole staff induction and training for schools new to the LCVP, the PDST also provides:
  - Information sessions for parents, employers and outside organisations
  - Local courses for LCVP co-ordinators and teachers
  - Resource materials to support teachers in the classroom
  - National Seminar in March annually
  - Email, web and phone support

Further information on all aspects of the support is available at [www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie).

Schools wishing to make direct contact with the PDST should get in touch with:

**Team Leader Post Primary  
Professional Development Service for Teachers  
Navan Education Centre,  
Athlumney,  
Navan, Co. Meath.**

**Telephone: (046) 907 8382**

**Fax: (046) 907 8385**

**Email: [business@pdst.ie](mailto:business@pdst.ie)**

**[www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie)**

5. The outline structure of the LCVP is set out in summary form later in this circular.
  - The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and LCVP Link Modules Assessment Guidelines have been published on the web and may be accessed at <http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Curriculum-and-Syllabus/Senior-Cycle-/Syllabuses-and-Guidelines/>
6. Ratios of recognised pupils to teachers in the LCVP are the same as those for the Leaving Certificate Established, namely a ratio of 19:1, other than in respect of pupils in all schools outside the free education scheme where the ratio is 20:1. There is no longer extra capitation available for LCVP.
7. Please 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  
Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit  
August 2013

## **Requirements for the participation in the LCVP**

### **Summary outline of restructured LCVP, including revised Vocational Subject Groupings**

***Each student must take the following, for certification purposes:***

- **Two** Leaving Certificate subjects **from one** of the Vocational Subject Groupings (see table 1 below)
- **Irish**<sup>#</sup>
- A Leaving Certificate **modern European language**, or an ab-initio course in a modern European language or a vocational language module<sup>#</sup>
- **At least one other** Leaving Certificate subject
- Two **Link Modules**. Students taking the LCVP examination are required to take the two Link Modules – ***Preparation for the World of Work*** and ***Enterprise Education***.

In summary, students must present for a minimum of 5 Subjects in their Leaving Certificate Examination and take 2 Link Modules.

The programme requirements must be met in full in a single school/centre for a student to be deemed an eligible LCVP student. Changes of mind as to subject choice may be allowed only where they are formally notified to the Department no later than 31 October of year one of the programme. Students (apart from repeat students) must be fully programme compliant over the remainder of the two-year cycle in order to be eligible as LCVP students. In order to ensure the cross-curricular components are delivered appropriately, all elements of the programme must be delivered in the school/centre that the student is attending on a full-time basis.

The portfolio item *My Own Place* requires that students engage in research and analysis of their local neighbourhood. While there is no difficulty with comparisons being made with other localities, the project must focus on current active research in the local neighbourhood of each school in compliance with the published criteria.

The attention of schools is drawn to the LCVP Link Module Assessment Guidelines, as amended by the State Examinations Commission from time to time, and to the importance of adhering to the rules for presentation of portfolios for examination as stated therein. These guidelines are available at [www.examinations.ie/schools](http://www.examinations.ie/schools).

Other aspects of learning in a Senior Cycle curriculum as outlined in *Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools* must also be provided in addition to the requirements for LCVP for Certification. This would include RSE, PE, Guidance, for example.

It will not be necessary for repeat Leaving Certificate students to comply with all the programme requirements of the LCVP in their repeat year, as long as they complied fully with the LCVP programme requirements over a two-year period in their original Leaving Certificate programme. Repeat students cannot take up LCVP ab-initio if they did not present for LCVP in their original Leaving Certificate.

## **Explanatory notes**

<sup>#</sup> Pupils opting for an alternative to the Leaving Certificate modern European language, or who are exempt from studying Irish, must take additional subject(s) to ensure that they present a minimum of five Leaving Certificate subjects in their Leaving Certificate examination.

In cases where students are not following a Leaving Certificate or Junior Certificate programme in a modern European language, schools must provide a minimum of one language class per week over the two years, or equivalent, to meet the LCVP modern European language requirement. They may choose an LCA or FETAC option, or an alternative developed by the school. In the case of schools developed alternatives, assessment will be at school level and national certification, through the LCA and FETAC will not be available.

Students who are exempt from the study of Irish under the terms of Rule 46(c) of the *Rules and Programmes for Secondary Schools* are still required to follow a modern European language module. Schools are reminded that they can develop their own module and adapt the level and content to the needs and abilities of the students concerned. However, assessment will be at school level for such options, and national certification, through the LCA and FETAC options, will not be available.

**TABLE 1**

Vocational Subject Groupings			
Specialist Groupings			
1.	Construction Studies 029 Engineering 027 Design & Communication Graphics 562 Technology 065	(any two)	
2.	Physics 021	and	Construction Studies 029 or Engineering 027 or Technology 065 or Design & Communication Graphics 562
3.	Agricultural Science 024	and	Construction Studies 029 or Engineering 027 or Technology 065 or Design & Communication Graphics 562
4.	Agricultural Science 024	and	Chemistry 022 or Physics 021 or Physics & Chemistry 023
5.	Home Economics (New Syllabus – Sci & Soc) 098	(any two)	Agricultural Science 024 or Biology 025
6.	Home Economics (New Syllabus – Sci & Soc) 098	and	Art with Design Option 071 or Art with Craftwork Option 072
7.	Accounting 032 Business 033 Economics 034	(any two)	
8.	Physics 021	and	Chemistry 022
9.	Biology 25	and	Chemistry 022 or Physics 021 or Physics & Chemistry 023
10.	Biology 025	and	Agricultural Science 024
11.	Art with Design Option 071 or Art with Craftwork Option 072	and	Design & Communication Graphics 562
Services Groupings			
12.	Engineering 027 or Technology 065 or Design & Communication Graphics 562 or Construction Studies 029	and	Accounting 032 or Business 033 or Economics 034
13.	Home Economics (New Syllabus – Sci & Soc) 098	and	Accounting 032 or Business 033 or Economics 034
14.	Agricultural Science 024	and	Accounting 032 or Business 033 or Economics 034
15.	Art with Design Option 071 or Art with Craftwork Option 072	and	Accounting 032 or Business 033 or Economics 034
16.	Music 067	and	Accounting 032 or Business 033 or Economics 034