

ASTI and TUI reps collaborate on Senior Cycle



Round table discussions at the ASTI/TUI event on Senior Cycle change.

The ASTI is working to ensure that teachers are at the centre of any changes to the Senior Cycle.

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, announced radical changes to Senior Cycle on March 29, 2022.

A meeting of ASTI and TUI subject representatives took place in November 2022 with the aim of developing a common understanding of and approach to the Minister's statement on the redevelopment of the Senior Cycle.

Round table discussions explored the rationale for Senior Cycle curriculum development, what a pathways framework might look like in Ireland, and assessment and marking arrangements for State certification purposes. The issue of the specification model for each subject was also intensively discussed.



From left: Moira Leydon (ASTI Assistant General Secretary), Michael Gillespie (TUI General Secretary), Liz Farrell (TUI President), Geraldine O'Brien (ASTI Vice President), Kieran Christie (ASTI General Secretary), and David Duffy (TUI Education and Research Officer).

At the meeting there was unanimous opposition to the Minister for Education's proposal to hold Paper 1 in English and Irish for fifth-year students in 2024. Subject representatives from both unions said this would undermine the integrity of the current curriculum in these subjects.

The Minister's announcement regarding school-based assessment was also opposed on educational grounds and was deemed inappropriate for a high-stakes exam such as the Leaving Cert, which enjoys high levels of trust and credibility. It was agreed that ASTI and TUI subject representatives will continue to collaborate on National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) subject development groups as Senior Cycle subject specifications are being revised.

The role of ASTI subject representatives

ASTI subject and programme representatives are elected annually by ASTI members. They represent the ASTI on NCCA subject development groups, where they promote ASTI policy and provide written reports after each meeting to the ASTI Education Committee. The ASTI Subject and Programme Representative Network is a vital resource for the ASTI in ensuring teachers' that voices are heard, particularly on issues relating to national policy on curriculum and assessment. The ASTI has 82 representatives across 41 subjects and programmes.

For a list of representatives, see: <https://www.asti.ie/education-and-curriculum/curriculum-and-assessment/>

Keep up with the ASTI Senior Cycle Campaign at: <https://www.asti.ie/news-campaigns/campaigns/seniorcycleredevelopment/>

ASTI Education Conference: Senior Cycle redevelopment

After a number of years' absence due to the pandemic, the ASTI will host a major education conference on curriculum change on Saturday, March 4, in the Strand Hotel, Limerick. The Minister for Education's media announcement in March 2022 of proposals for a redeveloped Senior Cycle curriculum provides the backdrop to the conference. The conference speakers will look at the wider processes of curriculum change, the balance between conservation and

innovation, educating students for the global challenges arising from the climate crisis, the rise of authoritarianism, the advances in artificial intelligence, the changing nature of work, and the crucial role and work of teachers.

Information on the Conference will be provided on the ASTI's website at: www.asti.ie