

To: Each School Steward

Re: Information Notice

Dear School Steward,

Croke Park Hours:

At a recent meeting of Standing Committee, I was asked to write to school stewards to clarify the position regarding the usage of Croke Park hours and in particular the provision in Circular 45/2016 which states:

“With effect from the beginning of the 2017/18 school year, an amount of time up to but not in excess of 10 hours (of the 33 hours) will be available for planning and development work on other than a whole-school basis and as approved by management.”

ASTI is aware that in a limited number of schools, less than 10 hours (of the 33 hours) are being made available to teachers for planning and development work on other than a whole-school basis and as approved by management.

ASTI has always insisted that the provision in the Circular as quoted above means that full-time teachers are entitled to 10 hours for planning and development work on other than a whole-school basis, and have interpreted “an amount of time up to but not in excess of 10 hours” as providing for the pro-rating of this entitlement for part-time teachers.

ASTI is adamant that this position was well understood by the parties to the negotiations when these hours were originally negotiated and subsequently increased to the current provision of 10 hours. Additionally, these hours can be undertaken in blocks of a minimum of 30 (as opposed to 60) minutes.

Notwithstanding the usual practice whereby the 10 hours should be used for planning and development work on other than a whole-school basis, any reduction should only be implemented following consultation with and the agreement of the teaching staff in the school.

If issues in this regard arise in your school, there should be engagement with management to secure resolution.

Social media – Tik Tok reporting channel:

The ASTI is now able to highlight/ report content that could be considered harmful or in violation of TikTok’s Community Guidelines via TikTok’s Community Partner Channel. This Community Partner Channel gives the ASTI access to an escalation process in the event that the normal TikTok reporting channel has not resolved an issue for an ASTI member, and once ASTI Head Office deems that the issue is of a threshold that requires urgent and immediate attention. Once a report is submitted by ASTI Head Office, TikTok will process the report.

It is hoped that we can negotiate similar access to an escalation process with other social media platforms in the near future. (continued overleaf)

P.T.O.

Áras Thomáis Mhic Dhonncha, Sráid an Fhíona, B.Á.C. 8, D08 P9V6
Thomas MacDonagh House, Winetavern Street, Dublin 8, D08 P9V6
Tel: 01-604 0160
1800 418 400
e-mail: info@asti.ie
<http://www.asti.ie>

GENERAL SECRETARY: KIERAN CHRISTIE

Teacher Welfare: Rights and Responsibilities – What you need to know:

Please find enclosed copies of an updated and revised edition of our *Teacher Welfare: Rights and Responsibilities – What you need to know* publication. I would ask that a copy is placed on the ASTI noticeboard in your school. If accessing this information notice by email, a digital copy may be accessed at www.asti.ie/teacherwelfare

Please bring this notice to the attention of all ASTI members in your school.

Best regards,



Kieran Christie
General Secretary

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