

ASTI directives remain as JC in-service begins for school ‘leaders’

The ASTI has informed the Department of Education and Skills and the NCCA that ASTI members – including principals, deputy principals and teachers of English – will not be attending in-service for the new Junior Cycle Framework scheduled to take place from this week.

All ASTI members are covered by the ASTI directive requiring members not to attend any in-service organised for the new Junior Cycle Framework. The directive applies to formal in-service courses/ days organised by the Department and/ or the NCCA for the new Junior Cycle Framework.

For questions and answers on the ASTI Directive on Junior Cycle Framework in-service visit www.asti.ie.

Open days / awards nights

A separate ASTI directive applies to meetings that take place outside normal school hours. ASTI members are directed not to attend formal school arranged meetings outside the school day including parent-teacher meetings, staff meetings, open days/ nights and awards nights. The directive applies to all ASTI members including principals and deputy principals.

In the case of ASTI members who have post of responsibility contracts which explicitly state that they are required to organise and/ or promote specific meetings/ events such as open days, these members may organise and/or promote such events but they may not attend them or participate in them in any capacity. This also applies to principals and deputy principals who normally organise/ promote such events.

Questions and answers on all of the ASTI directives are available at www.asti.ie

Payment for supervision and substitution

ASTI members are continuing to do supervision and substitution on the same basis as last year. The ASTI has received confirmation from the Department of Education and Skills that the same arrangement as last year continues to apply until further notice including payment for teachers who are signed up to the scheme.

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Junior Cycle Network Schools

Arising from queries from members in Junior Cycle Network schools, it should be noted that the directives apply to members in all schools.

In the case of Network schools, members may continue to participate in the Network. However, members may not attend junior cycle in-service. They may not attend meetings outside of school hours.

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Circular outlines application of Haddington Road/ FEMPI

On October 9th the Department of Education and Skills issued Circular 49/2013 to all second-level schools. This Circular notifies school authorities and teachers of the changes to salaries and other measures which took effect from July 1st, 2013 under the Haddington Road Agreement and the Financial Emergency in the Public Interest Act 2013 (FEMPI).

As the TUI has voted to accept the Haddington Road Agreement, the terms of the Haddington Road Agreement apply to TUI members. The Circular states that as data protection legislation prohibits the Department of Education and Skills and the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) from using data held by them to determine whether individual teachers are members of the ASTI or TUI, teachers will initially be treated according to the type of school they work in.

Teachers in voluntary secondary schools will therefore not be subject to the Haddington Road Agreement. Teachers in ETBs (excluding designated community colleges) will be subject to the Haddington Road Agreement. Teachers in community and comprehensive schools and in designated community colleges who are TUI members are required to return a data use consent form to their employer (ETB) or to the Department to enable payroll adjustments.

Circular 49/2013 is available at www.asti.ie.

Minister comments on ‘talks’ with ASTI

In an interview on RTE Radio 1 last week the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn said that talks between the ASTI and the Government side “might be explored with a view to meeting sometime after the mid-term break”. The statement has followed more than two weeks of industrial action, during which the ASTI leadership continued to make clear its willingness to enter talks about the concerns of ASTI members.

Minister Quinn said: “I would be open to have explorations by officials on my side with the education unions – specifically the ASTI - to see what kind of things they would like to talk about”.

ASTI General Secretary Pat King responded by saying: “Teachers did not take this decision lightly. The reasons teachers voted to reject the Haddington Road Agreement are complex. They include, but go beyond, what’s in the Agreement. The ASTI is not seeking the unravelling of the Haddington Road Agreement. However, this dispute can only be resolved through talks on the issues of concern to schools and teachers.”

See www.asti.ie for further development on the ASTI’s industrial relations campaign.

This Nuacht was issued on October 21st. Keep up to date by visiting the ASTI website - www.asti.ie
