

Guidance Note for School Placement 2020-2021 - Update

The Department of Education and the Teaching Council commend higher education institutes, school management bodies, principals, Treoraithe (formerly co-operating teachers), teacher unions, principal professional bodies, parents and pupils for the manner in which the school placement arrangements have been facilitated to date alongside the re-opening of schools. It is important that such collaboration continues throughout the remainder of this school year to support our schools in staying open safely in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and to also ensure an ongoing supply of qualified teachers to meet the identified needs of the system.

Further to recent engagement with stakeholders, the Department and Council wish to provide the following clarifications regarding the implementation of school placement during the current school year 2020/2021:

1. School placement is essential for Initial Teacher Education and for schools, as it helps to ensure a sufficient supply of teachers to meet the identified needs of the system.
2. All schools are strongly encouraged to continue to host student teachers on school placement during 2020/2021. As set out in [Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education](#) (Teaching Council 2020), school placement is a vital element in ensuring that future teachers are prepared for the daily reality of classroom life.
3. Student teachers should ensure that they are familiar with the Covid-19 measures in use by a school before commencing placement.
4. Further guidance will issue early in the New Year regarding assessment arrangements for school placement in the current school year.

ENDS