

Submission to NCCA on Senior Cycle Reform 1st November 2019

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The NCCA are to be commended on the ongoing work on Senior Cycle Curriculum Reform and in particular in their document relating to *Education for Sustainable Development: A study of opportunities and linkages in the primary and post-primary curriculum (2018)*

While this document is not part of the consultation process I would like to refer to it in this submission. This document is a valuable resource for all educators and should form a core element of teacher training and teacher CPD in helping teachers understand the SDG's and how they can be implemented in curriculum subjects.

This has already been noted in this NCCA study

“While this study underscores the responsibility that the NCCA has in ensuring curriculum documents that take account of the realities of our world, there are additional stakeholders who can lead on making sure that the curriculum as experienced is in line with that which is intended in curriculum documentation. Throughout this study, the important role of teachers in integrating education about and for sustainable development has been highlighted. Teachers need to be supported in their ESD endeavours: “(NCCA 2018:102)

More work needs to be done to reorient teacher education to approach ESD in its content and its teaching and learning methodologies. ... In order for teachers to be prepared to facilitate ESD, they must develop sustainability key competencies (including knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, motivation and commitment). But in addition to general sustainability competencies, they also need ESD competencies, which can be described as a teacher's capacity to help people develop sustainability competencies through a range of innovative teaching and learning practices (UNESCO, 2017: 51) (NCCA 2018:102) .

The question arising from this study is how can the SDG's become part of subject/teacher training courses to ensure students in turn become aware of Education for Sustainable Development and the SDG's as they progress through the education system.

This element of Curriculum Reform needs to be brought to the attention of the Minister for Education and Science to enable real reform of the Senior Cycle Education System and to ensure all learners become familiar with the SDG's.

Wishing you continued success in your work.