



NCCA

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
Curriculum agus Measúnachta
National Council for
Curriculum and Assessment

Senior Cycle Level 2 Learning Programme: My Life, My Finance

Elective modules

Draft for consultation

January 2025

Introduction

The Senior Cycle Level 2 Learning Programme (SCL2LP) consists of a range of curriculum areas, each designed on a modular basis. There are four curriculum areas at the heart of the SCL2LP: Numeracy, Communication and Literacy; Personal Care; and Electives.

My Life, My Finance consists of two elective modules. It is designed for a minimum of 120 hours of teaching time/class contact time over two years. Each module is designed for approximately 60 hours of teaching time/class contact time. Students may choose to pursue one or both modules.

Module title	Recommended time in hours
Minding my finances	60
Being an informed and confident consumer	60

Rationale

My Life, My Finance is focused on developing students' knowledge and understanding of their personal finances, which is fundamental to their daily life and promoting living independently. The two elective modules support students to make informed choices and decisions around purchasing goods and services and carrying out financial transactions. My Life, My Finance also enables students to engage in financial planning. It assists them in identifying financial supports and services in their local community and online.

The development of students' understanding of the role of money and finance in their lives contributes to the development of key competencies in senior cycle. When this happens, all learning across senior cycle is supported and the development of important life skills that are essential to student independence are promoted. Students stand to benefit in many ways as they progress in learning pathways and as they transition to life beyond school.

Continuity and progression

My Life, My Finance is structured to provide continuity from the students' junior cycle experience, Level 2 Priority Learning Units (PLU), Junior Cycle SPHE and the Primary maths curriculum to progress, enhance and deepen their learning in senior cycle. It aims to build on their knowledge and understanding in managing their money throughout senior cycle.

Making connections to prior learning at junior cycle and to other modules where a competence in money is required, helps to reinforce and progress students' learning. It also aims to provide students with a sense of achievement and confidence as they transition to the world of occupations, study or further services beyond school.

Teaching and learning

A critical aspect of learning in My Life, My Finance is supporting students to engage with real-world situations where the use of money and managing their money is important. Therefore, the learning outcomes identified in this curriculum area are designed to allow for a range of practical activities to support student learning. Role play and real-world scenarios will help students become more informed consumers, as students can use concrete materials to support their learning or engage in actual transactions with the relevant and appropriate support. Students can access services online or in person. Everyday life provides meaningful ways to explore, engage with and understand money while everyday interactions enable the application of financial

management skills. Students should have a broad learning experience across home, school, and community. The learning in each module links with the learning across other modules and other curriculum areas as students learn how to manage and protect their money and their financial identity.

Module: Minding my finances

Module descriptor

Through this module, students learn that money is a resource and that they will need to make informed decisions when shopping, independently or with support, for goods and services. They will also learn that transactions can be in person or online. This module also links learning with learning across other modules and curriculum areas as students will learn about the importance of protecting their money and their identity when transacting online.

Students learn about	Students should be able to
<p>The importance of money in daily life and how it can be transacted in diverse ways, including the use of paper notes, coins, cards and apps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recognise that money has a value b. Demonstrate the confident use of paper notes and coins c. Recognise, engage with and use different forms of money such as cash, cards, contactless or apps d. Recognise that some goods and services will cost more than others e. Identify the financial positives and negatives of shopping online f. Demonstrate an awareness of subscription services, pre-pay and bill pay g. Identify postage and import charges when buying online h. Identify and interpret key aspects of shopping receipts to explore and interpret their functions i. Identify and interpret information and terms used on a payslip j. Understand the contents of a payslip
<p>The online environment for financial transactions and its benefits, challenges and potential dangers. Students will also learn how they can protect themselves when using money online and about some of the common financial frauds that can be used by criminals to access their money or financial details.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> k. Recognise the range of online financial transactions that can take place, including banking and shopping online l. Understand what is meant by financial fraud m. Identify examples of financial fraud n. Discuss the potential dangers of financial fraud o. Discuss the importance of protecting personal data and identify steps to protect personal data p. Identify steps that can be taken as a victim of financial fraud.

Module: Being an informed and confident consumer

Module descriptor

In this module, students develop a greater understanding of what it means to be a consumer and the different financial services, such as the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC), that can help to support consumers. They will also develop an awareness of the services offered by financial institutions. Students learn about services that are available to help manage money, such as the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) and Citizens Information Centres.

Students learn about	Students should be able to
<p>Their consumer rights and responsibilities and how to make more informed decisions when buying goods or services, including how they can make a complaint or seek a resolution when there is a problem.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify themselves as a consumer and outline the different ways they consume goods and services b. Identify where to get consumer support and advice c. Develop an awareness of their consumer rights and responsibilities online and in person d. Recognise what a guarantee and warranty is and understand how it works e. Understand what actions to take if there is a problem or concern with goods or services f. Identify a situation when an item needs to be exchanged or returned g. Explain the different means of resolving a consumer complaint h. Provide appropriate feedback, positive or negative, on goods or services, in writing or verbally
<p>The different financial institutions that provide various financial services. Students will also learn about steps involved in opening an account with a financial institution. They will learn how to compare financial products and how banking online may help us to manage our money.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify and engage with the steps involved in setting up online banking j. Recognise and identify the features of banking online k. Identify and explain their rights and responsibilities as a consumer of a financial institution l. Evaluate the importance of and understand budgeting and saving m. Evaluate opportunities to save money n. Use digital tools to support financial planning o. Identify what a personal loan is p. Recognise when one might need a personal loan

- q. Compare personal loan options and identify differences in what is being offered
- r. Understand the process of and risks involved in borrowing money.

