



## Pavee Point Education Bulletin February 2015



### Inclusion Support Service



The Minister for Education, Jan O'Sullivan has announced a new **Inclusion Support Service** as part of the **National Council for Special Education**.

The Inclusion Support Service will include:

- The Special Education Support Service,
- The National Behaviour Support Service,
- The Visiting Teacher Service for Children who are blind/visually impaired or deaf/hard of hearing.

This change should mean that schools will receive a better and more integrated service from the Inclusion Support Service.

For further information on the service please go to [www.ncse.ie](http://www.ncse.ie)

### Department of Education launches Consultation on Early Years Education



The Department of Education has launched a public consultation on early years education as part of a major review of early years qualifications.

They are looking for submissions from childcare practitioners, students, parents, education and training providers, employers in the sector and anyone else with an interest in the area.

The review aims to find out what mix of knowledge and skills early childhood educators need to ensure quality education outcomes for all children.

There is a survey available online for childcare practitioners and employers to complete. There is also a template for submissions for anyone else who would like to contribute to the consultation.

You can access the survey and template at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie).

### Grants for College and University

Are you thinking about going to college or university in September?



Would you like to apply for a grant or financial assistance?

The **SUSI grant system** offers funding to students

in full time third level education. All types of students can get financial support from SUSI including people who have just finished school and mature students who would like to go back to study. The amount of funding you receive will depend on your household income.

The **online application system for SUSI grants will open in mid-April** for students that would like to start college or university in September 2015.

You can apply for a SUSI grant online or find out more information at [www.susi.ie](http://www.susi.ie)

## The new Junior Cert



In September 2014 secondary schools began to start teaching the **new Junior Cert** to 1<sup>st</sup> Year students.

### Why did they change the Junior Cert?

A study by the ESRI found that a lot of students felt there was too much information to learn for the Junior Cert. There was also a problem with some students beginning to lose interest in school in second year. It was felt that because of exam pressure there wasn't a lot of time or space for students to learn other skills or information which would be beneficial.

### What will the new Junior Cert be like?

The new Junior Cert will be made up of **subjects and short courses**. Short courses are new and designed to give students the chance to explore new areas of learning and develop new skills. There will also be a new emphasis on developing **6 key skills** which have been identified as important for kids to have in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Will it all change at once?

No. The new Junior Cert is going to be introduced a little bit at a time for the next few years. In September 2014 they started to teach the new English curriculum and in September 2015 they will start teaching the new Science curriculum.

If you want to **find out more information** about the new Junior Cert there is information available for parents and guardians at <http://juniorcycle.ie/Planning/Information-for-Parents>

## Education Advocacy Network



The Education Team in Pavee Point is creating a network of local Traveller education champions or advocates to spread information about

education issues around the country.

### When is the first meeting?

Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March from 10.30 – 1.30

### Where?

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, North Great Charles Street, Dublin 1.

### What will the first meeting be about?

At the first meeting we will have presentations from the **National Education Welfare Board (NEWB)** and the **National Council for Special Education Needs (NCSE)**.

If you would like to attend please contact **Johnny McDonagh** at [johnny.mcdonagh@pavee.ie](mailto:johnny.mcdonagh@pavee.ie) or **Geraldine Joyce** at [geraldine.joyce@pavee.ie](mailto:geraldine.joyce@pavee.ie) in Pavee Point. Please note that **places are limited**

## Traveller Parent Education Programme in Kildare



### Would you like to know more about the education system?

The Pavee Point Education team delivers a programme for Traveller parents that look at issues such as bullying, grants, education supports and the education welfare service. The training is delivered by Travellers for Travellers.

### The next parent programme will be in Kildare.

**When:** April 2, 2015

**Time:** 10:00 – 1:00

**Where:** Kildare Travellers Action, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

For more information or if you would like to attend the next parent programme in Kildare **please contact Kathleen McDonnell, Tel: 01 878 0255** or **Email: [kathleen.mcdonnell@pavee.ie](mailto:kathleen.mcdonnell@pavee.ie)**



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