

E-scéal - 16 April 2020



Dear {FIRST_NAME|Member}

This e-scéal contains useful information on the following:

- [COVID-19 – Preparations for Summer Term School Meals Survey](#)
- [Webinar - Draft Admissions Policy](#)
- [Remote Learning From Apple, Cisco & IBM - Offer of Free Help to Schools](#)
- [School Meals Survey](#)

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COVID-19 – Preparations for Summer Term

We hope that you were able to have some rest and relaxation over the holiday period. We are conscious that your thoughts will again be focussing on leading your school community during the summer term. IPPN has been working closely with CSL over the past week to put together some practical options and ideas to support your leadership role at this time.

[Click here to view Guidance Document](#)

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Webinar - Draft Admissions Policy

Mason Hayes & Curran Solicitors' Education Team is facilitating a webinar to discuss the draft Admission Policy for primary schools.



During the webinar, the Education Team will focus on what is permissible and what is not under the Admissions Act. The team will also help you navigate the DES templates. Please note the deadline of 30 April for submitting draft admissions policies to your patron body is fast approaching.

The webinar for primary schools will take place on **Wednesday 22 April**

from 11.00 to 11.45am.

[Click here to REGISTER for this webinar](#)

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Remote Learning From Apple, Cisco & IBM - Offer of Free Help to Schools

Apple, Cisco and IBM have joined forces to help schools deliver distance learning in a simple, high quality, interactive, controlled and secure fashion - this is supported by the DES.



Cisco Webex is a powerful, robust, secure collaboration tool. As a simple-to-use environment, teachers can share content directly with students, with speech, video and/or text chat interaction. Students do not need to have an account created for them to participate in the teacher engagement. It is GDPR compliant and suitable for remote learning.

The partners are providing:

- Free 90-day access for schools to use their enterprise solution Cisco Webex collaborative platform during COVID-19 restrictions
- Deployment support at school level provided by IBM and/or Apple.

For more information, visit IPPN's dedicated Covid 19- Latest Updates page tomorrow (Friday 17 April) to view dates and times to register for a webinar.

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School Meals Survey

Thank you to all schools involved for your continued and generous support of the School Meals Programme. You can be assured that the efforts you are making to get food to your pupils in their homes is making a real difference to their health and welfare at this time of unprecedented disruption.

[TAKE SURVEY ►](#)

A total of 1054 schools between primary and secondary are currently involved in the School Meals Programme. The disruption to the service caused by school closure has meant that we have had to come up with new and innovative ways of getting the food to those who need it most. An Post generously came on board, offering to help distribute the food to those in greatest need. Some food companies took that to mean that An Post would distribute food to all children normally in receipt of school meals. An Post have since made it clear that they simply do not have the capacity to deliver such a service and that their offer is to support where the need is greatest.

IPPN is supporting school leaders, along with DES and An Post, to ensure that the service offered by An Post is workable, within their means, and that the children in greatest need of food at this critical time will not go without.



To ascertain what exactly the food distribution needs are in each school, we are asking you to please fill out a very short survey (less than five minutes) circulated by the DES to participating schools, so that we can help direct the support from An Post to where it is most needed. Information sought by the DES through this survey will be fed back to IPPN, who will co-ordinate that support in the areas where the demand is most critical.

Once we have a clearer picture from the data collected, we will be seeking support in each postal area from a school leader to ensure that the distribution of food continues with the least disruption. It is vitally important in these unprecedented times that we work together to ensure that, where possible, no child who attends our schools will go hungry.

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