

Addition of PE methodology to PME (Post Primary) Hibernia College

February 2025

Background

This submission is specifically for the proposed addition of the methodology for Physical Education (PE) to the existing PME (PP). The Professional Master of Education (Post-primary) from Hibernia College was accredited by the Teaching Council on 12 June 2023. The full report for the accredited programme is available on the Teaching Council Website.

The PE methodology will be offered within the existing PME and is intended to prepare postgraduate student teachers for registration and teaching Physical Education (PE).

Process

Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education sets out the standards which programmes of initial teacher education in Ireland must meet to gain accreditation from the Teaching Council. It is also a benchmark for anybody seeking to register as a teacher in Ireland.

Hibernia College submitted an updated pro forma, to demonstrate the PE specific programme elements. The addition to the programme was reviewed by the Review Panel following the *Procedures*.

The review of the addition of the **PE Methodology to the accredited Professional Master of Education (Post-primary)** at **Hibernia College** took place between December 2024 and February 2025 in accordance with the Council's *Procedures for the Professional Accreditation of Programmes of Initial Teacher Education*.

Step 1 Notification	Hibernia College notified the Council of its intention to submit an additional methodology (PE) to the Professional Master of Education (PP)
Step 2 Submission	Hibernia College submitted the required documents on 10 December 2024
Step 3 Desk-based Review	A desk-based review was completed by the Council staff on 13 December 2024.
Step 4 Appointment of Review Panel	The process was formally initiated when the Review Panel (hereinafter referred to as 'the panel') was convened by the Teaching Council's director, with Mr Ciarán Flynn as Chairperson and Ms Elaine McBride and Dr Charlaine Simpson as panel members. The panel was briefed by Teaching Council staff.

Rapporteur	<p>The review panel was supported in their role by Mary Condon as rapporteur.</p> <p>The rapporteur's functions included liaison with Hibernia College, maintaining records of meetings, and drafting and finalising the panel's report in conjunction with the panel Chairperson. The panel was also supported in its deliberations by the Director of the Teaching Council and her executive staff nominees.</p>
Step 5 Review panel meeting 1	The panel met on 09 January 2025 to consider the submission.
Engagement	<p>The review panel conducted a site visit to Hibernia College and Belvedere College on 15 February 2025. This was also attended by the rapporteur and Teaching Council staff.</p> <p>The following attended on behalf of Hibernia College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO • Academic Dean • Registrar • Head of programme • Lecturer in Education • Subject Specialists • Director of Placement • Placement Tutors • School Principals
Step 6 Review panel	The panel met to consider the clarifications and agree recommendations following the engagement.
Step 7 Reporting	<p>The report was drafted and issued to the HEI for the 30-day feedback period.</p> <p>It was finalised when the final response was received from Hibernia College.</p>
Step 8 Education Committee	The Chair will present the report at the next meeting of the Education Committee. They may decide to accredit the addition to the accredited programme, accredit the addition to the programme with requirements or not accredit the addition to the programme.

Overview

It was noted by the Panel that the PME (Post Primary) has been accredited by the Teaching Council in April 2023 in accordance with Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education. The panel examined the addition of the subject methodology of PE to the accredited PME programme. The panel visited Hibernia College and met senior management, the programme team, the school placement team, tutors and school principals. The panel completed a tour of the facilities provided by Hibernia College, as per their agreement with Belvedere College, to support the provision of the PE methodology. The panel considered the following factors in their review of the programme for the consideration of the addition of PE as a subject methodology on the PME:

- There is professional and deep engagement of the Hibernia College senior management, school of education and members of the programme team with the accreditation process for the subject PE.
- There exists a clear conceptual framework and considered integration of Céim standards in the provision made for PE.
- The introduction of PE as a subject methodology for the PME is a positive step, addressing the growing demand for PE teachers.
- Hibernia College made the panel aware that they have a clear understanding of the Teaching Council's curricular subject registration requirements for PE and that their entry selection process for PE will be aligned with these requirements.
- The established partnership with Belvedere College for practical subjects will ensure that students gain essential skills and experience in teaching PE. Each of the six areas of physical activity within the PE curriculum will be catered for using the facilities in the school.
- There is a clear focus on teacher identity and agency as the participants progress from student teacher to newly qualified teacher within the subject PE.
- The panel met with, and held discussions with the two staff members who would undertake teaching the PE methodology and was satisfied with their qualifications, experience and the content of the programme outlined.
- Hibernia College's provision of subject-specific school placement tutors is beneficial and will ensure high-quality mentorship for student teachers of PE.

Review outcome

Having regard to the documentation that was submitted, the site visit and tour of facilities, the panel adjudges that the addition to the programme meets the standards set down by the Teaching Council in *Céim: Standards for Initial Teacher Education*.

Accordingly, it recommends to the Teaching Council that this addition of the methodology for Physical Education to the accredited PME (PP) programme, be granted accreditation.

Appendix 1 – Review Panel Members

Chair: Mr Ciarán Flynn

Ciarán Flynn, Educational Consultant, retired from his eight-year tenure as General Secretary of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS), where he advised and supported the Boards of Management and Principals of the 96 post-primary schools in the Association. He acted as a Management nominee on the Teaching Council for a three-year term, chairing the Audit and Risk Committee. He chaired the joint research project of the Teaching Council and the Department of Education on “Teacher Supply” and chaired the Placement System Working Group. He was Principal of Navan Community College and the founding Principal in 1994 of Ashbourne Community School. In his 30-year teaching career he worked in a number of Dublin and Meath schools as a Science and Career Guidance teacher, then as a Deputy Principal. He lectured on the M.Sc. in Educational Training and Management programme in DCU in areas such as Action Research and Leadership and supervising Masters students.

As an Educational Consultant he has worked for and with individual schools, regional and national educational bodies in carrying out investigations, supporting and promoting professional development.

Panel Member: Ms Elaine McBride

Ms McBride is a secondary school teacher at Ashbourne Community School. She holds a B.Sc. in Physical Education with Biology from Dublin City University (DCU) graduating in 2018 with a first-class honour's degree. Over the past six years, she has taught both the Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert curriculum. She has served as a PE Department Head and participated in the pilot program for Leaving Cert PE.

During the 2022-23 academic year, she worked for part of the year as an Education Tutor for DCU PE and Biology students on placement. This experience provided valuable insights into the assessment process required for the roll out of a third-level education course.

Panel Member: Dr Charlaine Simpson

Dr Charlaine Simpson is the Head of Postgraduate (Taught) and Professional Learning in the School of Education in the University of Aberdeen, where she co-ordinates the postgraduate portfolio and leads and manages a team of academics. She teaches in the area of leadership, in particular school leadership.

Prior to joining the School of Education in 2022, Charlaine taught in a secondary school in Scotland for more than 20 years, including in leadership and local authority roles. As a Senior Education Officer for GTC Scotland, she worked across various remits including, ITE accreditation, Research and Professional Learning, and was primary investigator for the refreshed Professional Standards for teachers. While employed by GTC Scotland, she was also seconded to the Scottish Government to support data collection for the National Improvement Framework.

She is a life-long learner and has a deep love of learning. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated an absolute commitment to the development of the teaching profession and teacher professionalism. Her research is focused on educational policy and teacher professionalism, and she is particularly interested in how teachers engage with and enact policy through the lens of teacher professionalism.