

Modern Foreign Languages Development Group

Meetings: May 29 2015 and September 22 2015

Agenda for May 29th: Update on background paper and brief for Junior Cycle MFL	Documentation/Discussion A presentation was made to the group on the background paper and brief for Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages and a discussion of each section of the paper followed.
The development group considered the rationales and aims from the specification of the Junior Cycle English as well as a few short courses as templates.	The group discussed the following features of a specification for MFL: Rationale: this describes why learning about the subject is important for the world we live in today Aim: this describes the expected impact of the subject on students' learning
The following were some of the points proposed for inclusion in a draft rationale and aim for MFL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A key message of the new specification will need to be that language is for life and should be accessible to all learners• Purposes of learning modern languages to be included in the rationale and the point that they complement other aspects of our lives• There should be encouragement for engagement with and enjoyment of languages• Language learning is a process• Language learning encourages global citizenship• Oral communication should be given priority. It will aid confidence as well as competence	
Agenda for September 22: Update on consultation	Documentation/Discussion The group was informed about the online survey, the consultation event and the student voice project in collaboration with TCD which will seek views of a small sample of students on learning a MFL. A request was made to extend the consultation and this was subsequently facilitated.
Learning outcomes: from curriculum to classroom	Dr Anna Walshe, NCCA, made a presentation to the group on the purpose of Learning Outcomes.
Draft rationale and aim for Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages	The group were presented with a draft rationale and aim for consideration. The feedback reflected general satisfaction with them, given views expressed by the consultation process to date as well as the views expressed by the group itself at the last meeting.
Important learning for Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages	The group was divided in two and asked to brainstorm some of the important learning that should be included in the specification. The ideas generated related to the areas of spoken production and spoken interaction.