

HEADTEACHER SURVEY OF SENIOR PHASE CURRICULUM APPROACHES

Colleagues

On Friday of last week, all secondary head teachers should have received an email with a link to an important survey on the Senior Phase Curriculum. I am sure you are all aware of the noise in the system, particularly in the Scottish Parliament's Education and Skills Committee, and in the Scottish media, about Senior Phase models, the number of subjects studied in S4 and related matters. The aim of this survey is to gather as much solid data as possible on what curricular models actually look like on the ground. This is information which the system does not currently hold at a national level. It is important that as many secondary schools as possible complete what is, by its very nature, a fairly lengthy questionnaire in as much detail as possible.

The Scottish Government has provided the following information about the survey.

Some information about the survey:

- This work was commissioned last autumn in order to explore the views and experiences of Headteachers around Senior Phase curriculum design.
- The survey questionnaire was designed by independent research company Rocket Science in collaboration with Scottish Government and a Research Advisory Group which included representation from ADES, Education Scotland, the University of Edinburgh (Moray House) and SG.
- SLS has been consulted on the production and format of the questionnaire
- The aim of the research is to provide the Scottish Government with up to date information about the development of the Senior Phase curriculum across Scotland, and the factors that are driving curriculum design in Scottish secondary schools – the story behind the numbers we have been hearing so much about recently.
- Headteachers of all state-funded secondary schools in Scotland are encouraged to share their views.
- The research will give the Scottish Government a better understanding of the national picture with regard to curriculum design and the Senior Phase in Scottish schools.

With regard to a timeline:

- The survey will go live on Friday 31st May and will remain open for 4 weeks until 12 noon on Friday 28th June.
- On Friday 31st May, independent research company Rocket Science will send an email to the Headteachers of all state-funded secondary schools in Scotland with a link to the survey.
- In some instances, this email from Rocket Science may go to the school's generic/admin email address
- Research findings will be available later in the year.