



# NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL WELFARE BOARD AN BORD NÁISIÚNTA LEASA OIDEACHAIS

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To: **Boards of Management Primary/Post Primary Schools**  
**Principals Primary/Post Primary Schools**  
**Chief Executives of Vocational Education Committees**  
**Chairpersons School Completion Programmes**

## NEW INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, RETENTION AND PARTICIPATION

A Chara,

In May, Mr Sean Haughey, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Education & Science announced that with effect from 1st September 2009, the Home School Community Liaison Programme (HSCL), the School Completion Programme (SCP) and the Visiting Teachers Service for Travellers (VTST) would be integrated within the National Educational Welfare Board (NEWB).

The National Educational Welfare Board is now developing an integrated model of service building on the combined strengths of the four services (HSCL, SCP, VTST and the Educational Welfare Service) to deliver a child focused and integrated approach to school attendance, retention and participation. Work on the integrated approach is being undertaken in partnership with the Department of Education & Science and other stakeholders.

Pending the development of the integrated model of service, interim reporting arrangements for the HSCL and SCP National Co-ordination Teams and the Visiting Teachers Service for Travellers are being put in place. However, at school and school cluster and local area levels, there will be no immediate changes to the operation of HSCL, SCP or the VTST. Each will continue to operate to ensure continuity of services to schools, families and communities. Arrangements for the provision of professional development and support for HSCL and SCP coordinators will continue but will facilitate the broader remit under the new management structure of the NEWB.

The aim of the new approach is to achieve better educational outcomes for all children. The integrated approach will yield good models of service that can be drawn upon by schools and others. As the integration project develops, you will be kept informed through the NEWB website ([www.newb.ie](http://www.newb.ie)).

The new integrated service is a positive and challenging development. I look forward to collaborating with you in this work which has the primary objective of improving outcomes for children, families and young people.

Chairpersons, School Principals, CEOs are requested to bring this letter to the attention of staff, committees and others as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

**Eddie Ward,**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
September 2009