

General information on changes to Droichead

1. Clarification of Vision and Purpose

The updated policy provides a clearer description of Droichead's purpose as an integrated professional induction framework, central to the continuum of teacher education.

The non-evaluative nature of the process is now explicitly stated, and the transition from initial teacher education to induction is emphasised.

Additional information has been provided to offer clarity on the roles of Oide, the Principal and Management Teams, within the Droichead process.



2. Settings and eligibility

Greater clarity is provided on eligible settings for completing Droichead, especially for NQTs in Special Educational Needs (SEN) roles.

Job-share, supply panel, and principal release time posts are now explicitly included as eligible settings.

Additional clarification has also been provided on the settings in which NQTs in Post Primary settings can complete their Droichead process.

Oide's role within the process has been clarified highlighting how they are placed to provide supports to schools to ensure that the needs of the NQT are met in line with their role, and within the school context.

3. Cluster meetings

All NQTs are now required to attend two cluster meetings: one in-person at an education centre and one online. The meetings are categorised as "General" and "Focused," with the latter addressing context-specific needs.

An introductory webinar is now mandatory before attending the first cluster meeting.

4. Portfolio-Based Learning (Taisce) and Research



The role of Taisce (portfolio-based learning) is clarified. It is a private item supporting the NQT's professional learning, with one element to be shared with the PST for discussion. The policy strengthens the link between Taisce, reflective practice, research and professional conversations.

5. Tailored supports and additional needs

The policy now explicitly addresses the need for tailored supports for NQTs with additional or accommodation needs. Oide's role in providing support to schools and PSTs is clarified and strengthened.

6. Operational and Procedural Updates

The process for NQTs to register and commence Droichead is managed through the My Registration portal, replacing the previous DR1 form system.

