

Science Development Group

Meeting 2

25th November 2012

Agenda:	Discussion:
Update on consultation of Background paper	The high level of interest in the ongoing consultation was acknowledged and further consultations events were discussed.
Defining <i>scientific literacy</i>	The definition of scientific literacy from the Draft PISA 2015 Science Framework document was presented to the group for discussion.
Rationale and Aim of Junior Cycle Science	The group discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The weight that should be placed on learning science for life as opposed to preparation for advanced learning.▪ How science can develop problem solving, reasoning and decision making skills.▪ The open-outcome nature of investigations and the link to literacy development.▪ The desirable number of aims and their content.
Course structure- stands and elements	The group discussed a variety of different ways of structuring the stands and elements of the specification.
These emerging issues were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The potential for the strands and elements of the new junior cycle science curriculum mirroring the strands and elements of a future primary science curriculum to facilitate a focus on learner progression from primary to post-primary is worthy of consideration.▪ An overarching <i>The Nature of Science</i> strand, with elements such as <i>Understanding about Science, Investigating in Science, Communicating in Science, and Science in Society</i> might be a useful innovation.▪ A number of other strands, such as <i>Earth and Space</i> will be discussed at future meetings▪ Adoption of strands will have implications for assessment proposals <p>Next meeting: The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 16th January 2014.</p>	

