

Support to the Position Statement on *NCCA consultation in relation to redeveloped primary curriculum* from the Irish Primary Physical Education Association

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Physical Education Association (EUPEA) which is a professional body representing the professional Physical Education Associations of more than 30 countries in Europe. We are informed from the Irish Primary Physical Education Association (IPPEA) about the ongoing consultation in relation to a redeveloped primary curriculum in Ireland.

Physical Education has a unique role to play in the educational process since it offers a very different set of learning opportunities for young people which cannot be provided elsewhere. It provides a foundation for so many opportunities later in life. At a time when most of Europe is strenuously attempting to encourage young people to adopt healthy lifestyles, to acquire the basic motor skills and knowledge to engage in lifelong physical activity and to adopt a positive attitude towards being active, it is critical that we protect the place of the subject in schools. Just as importantly, there are few other subjects that offer children and young people the opportunity to use their own bodies as a learning medium in a way Physical Education does.

This said, we insist that Physical Education must be a core element in any primary curriculum in Europe with mandatory weekly time allocations. As stated in EUPEA's declaration from Madrid from 1991, and according to the *Recommendations to encourage physical education in schools, including motor skills in early childhood, and to create valuable interactions with the sport sector, local authorities and the private sector* of the Expert Group on Health-Enhancing Physical Activity from the European Commission in 2015, we recommend daily Physical Education lessons in primary education settings.

By this letter, we would like express our support and that of our more than 30 members all over Europe to the well-argued position statement of the IPPEA, which stresses the unique place of Physical Education in Primary Education.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the European Physical Education Association



Claude Scheuer

President EUPEA



Ruedi Schmid

General Secretary EUPEA