

Skills for the Economy

STEM: Technological advances and global innovations emphasise the future importance of qualifications and occupations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). DFEi is now offering STEM subjects on many of its courses such as **Animal Science, Laboratory Techniques, Construction Technology, Electronic Technology and Software Development courses.**



Entrepreneurship: Governmental reform agendas are focused on expanding Ireland's entrepreneurial capacity. DFEi's has responded by offering entrepreneurship on the following courses such as **Business Studies (with Law): Pre-University Business or Law and the Advanced Certificate in Security Operations.**

Soft and Transversal skills: Such as communications, work experience, personal and professional development and team-building are central to all of DFEi's courses. These skills are essential for all learners whether they are progressing to employment or further/higher education and training and are a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

CNC Routing: Computer Numeric Control specialists are in high demand and CNC continues to be an integral part of DFEi's **Apprentice Provision in Carpentry and Joinery and on the Furniture Design and Making Post Leaving Certificate courses.**

BIM: Learners at DFEi are introduced to the basics of Building Information Modelling on the **Advanced Certificate in Architectural Technology and Design.** BIM involves replicating the

DFEi has worked hard to reshape its FET provision in order to translate the **5 Strategic Goals of the SOLAS FET Strategy 2014-2019** into a better educational experience and improved service for DFEi's learners. At the same time, DFEi strives to meet the expectations from Governmental Reform Agendas such as **"Pathways to Work"** and **"Action Plan for Jobs"**. Many new initiatives have been introduced in order to realign strategic resources to educate and train learners for today's and tomorrow's modern Irish Economy and a sample of these initiatives are outlined below.

construction project in detailed 3D models by using dedicated modelling software such as AUTODESK REVIT.



Active Inclusion, Literacy and Numeracy Strategy

Active Inclusion: DFEi has worked with the DDLETB and the Equality Authority to ensure that DFEi's Admissions Policy and Code of Practice includes all sectors of society www.dfei.ie/admissions.



Pastoral Care: All learners are supported through their educational journey in DFEi through subject and class teachers who place an emphasis on the learner's well-being and development.

Learner Voice: DFEi has an active Students Council which comprises of representatives from each course. The Students Council provides a valuable contribution to DFEi life and two representatives are elected to sit on DFEi's Board of Management.

Guidance and Counselling: All registered learners at DFEi have access to a Guidance and Counselling service.

Educational Supports: Are provided for learners with either learning or health difficulties through the HEA Fund for

Learners with Disabilities. These supports have to be applied for and may be in the form of assistive technologies, one-to-one tutorials or examinations considerations www.dfei.ie/admissions.



Literacy: Communications is now mandatory on all Level 5 and 6 courses offered in DFEi. The communications team work closely to upgrade resources and assignments with a view to upgrading the literacy status of all learners.

Numeracy Strategy: As mentioned above Maths is included in many of DFEi's courses. Maths skills are necessary for employment and/or progression.

Progression: Many of DFEi's learners progress in their studies. Each year DFEi produces a Higher Education Links Poster which illustrates progression opportunities. The Guidance Counsellor will assist any learner in their application for Further or Higher Education.

Quality Provision

Quality Assurance (QA): All of DFEi's courses are fully quality assured to both national and international standards. Robust policies and procedures that conform to best practice are in place and are regularly reviewed.

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ): All of DFEi's courses are placed on the NFQ www.nfq.ie. This is essential in today's lifelong learning society where learners are striving to step-up a level on

the framework in order to upskill or advance their career. DFEi's qualifications are also linked to the European Qualifications Framework which allows portability and movement for those learners who wish to work or continue their studies abroad.

Information to learners: All learners receive a learner handbook which outlines how DFEi operates and a learner contact which identifies what is expected of learners during their course of study at DFEi.

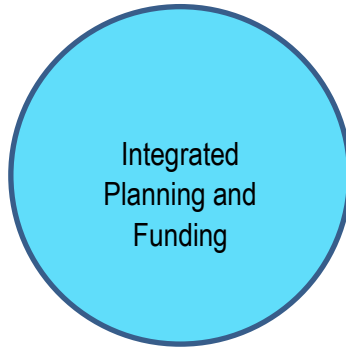
Developing QA Standards: DFEi staff have been directly involved in developing national QA standards through participation in many different standards projects such as: the Apprentice Carpentry and Joinery Version 4 Syllabus, the development of QQI Awards in Journalism, the creation of a CNC Special Purpose Award and participation on many different SOLAS Working Groups.



Teaching and Learning: DFEi staff in Animal Care and Nursing are piloting a DDLETB's iTunesU Project involving the use of iPads to create independent thinking, to provide different ways of learning and to assist learners in taking control over their own learning situation.



Blended Learning: DFEi is working with eCollege in order to augment course provision by providing learners with the opportunity to complete industry standard qualifications on-line.



DFEi is unique in that it provides provision on a variety of programmes which have many different funding models and requirements.

- Apprenticeship
- Post Leaving Certificate (PLC)
- Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)
- VTOS
- HEA Disability Fund
- Night Classes

Integrated Planning: DFEi plans its provision to ensure that all resources are maximised in order to fulfil the many different obligations that arise from the variety of programmes listed above. This involves smart timetabling and using resources effectively such as specialist rooms.

Integrated Teaching Resources: DFEi's teaching staff have shown considerable flexibility and have experience of teaching across the various different programmes listed above.

Moodle: All programmes within DFEi use Moodle. Moodle is an elearning platform and it is used to provide on-line learning resources to learners. The use of Moodle creates greater learning efficiencies and better learning outcomes.



Integrated Management Structures:
The senior and middle management

teams within DFEi, including Administration and Caretaking manage each programme in unison. Academic calendars are shared (where possible) and services are provided to all learners regardless of the programme of study they are completing.

Funding: In order to create value outcomes for the exchequer, DFEi follows rigorous procurement and reporting requirements. Each programme is reported on separately. Data collected includes completion rates, spread of results and final destination of learners. This involves completing online databases and surveys for both the Department of Education and Skills and SOLAS.

Communications: DFEi uses modern technologies to communicate with all learners. The DFEi App is easy to follow and provides learners with smart and efficient data and communications forms that assist in everyday life at DFEi.



Employment and Further and Higher Education Progression. Each year DFEi's graduate gain employment or progress to further or higher education. Testimonials from these graduates are located on many of the course pages and they speak for themselves.

Participation in IrelandSkills and

WorldSkills Events: DFEi consistently has apprentice learners who represent their country nationally and internationally in skills competitions. This would not happen without the commitment and determination of DFEi's teaching staff at DFEi.

College Awareness Week: Each year, as part of College Awareness Week, DFEi hosts the News Academy UK, News Conference. This conference is aimed at aspiring Journalists from all over Ireland. News Academy UK is happy for this event to be hosted in DFEi because of the high standards of excellence in news media generated through DFEi's media courses.

DFEi hosts all Ireland interviews for entry to Nursing Degrees at Southampton University:

DFEi has a reputation of being a centre of excellence in Nursing Studies provision. This is because the teaching staff are also trained and experienced nurses. Southampton University has recognised this unique attribute and every year applicants from all over Ireland (including DFEi's) attend to complete group tests and selection interviews.