

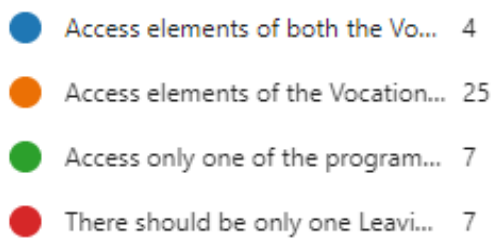
The National Parents Council welcomes the opportunity to share the views of parents with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) in relation to the re-development of senior cycle, specifically the **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) and Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCAP)**. On this basis, we developed a survey to hear the insights and concerns of parents on the choices open to their children regarding these different programmes. We also asked parents for their views on the principles underpinning the LCAP, assessment and the ten key competencies their children will be taught in LCAP and LCVP.

Our survey was open from March 26th – April 1st and received a response rate of 43 parents. We have promoted all surveys prepared by the NCCA and included the links for them at the end of our survey. All surveys were sent to NPC members and those on the NPC contacts database. Links to the surveys were also displayed on our website (www.npc.ie) and on the NPC social media platforms.

It was made clear to parents that the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCAP), and Leaving Certificate Established are all independent of each other, where a student can only enrol in one of the three programmes. On this basis, we asked parents if their child should have the choice to:

- Access elements of the Vocational Programme, Applied Programme, and Leaving Certificate Established,
- Access elements of both the Vocational and Applied Programmes,
- Access only one of the programmes
- There should be only one Leaving Certificate to cater for all students' needs

The responses of parents were as follows: 25 parents believe that their children should be able to access elements of all three programmes, 7 parents believe their children should access only one of the programmes, 7 parents believe that there should be only one Leaving Certificate that caters for all students' needs, and 4 parents believe that their children should be able to access elements of both the Vocational and Applied Programmes (See figure 1).

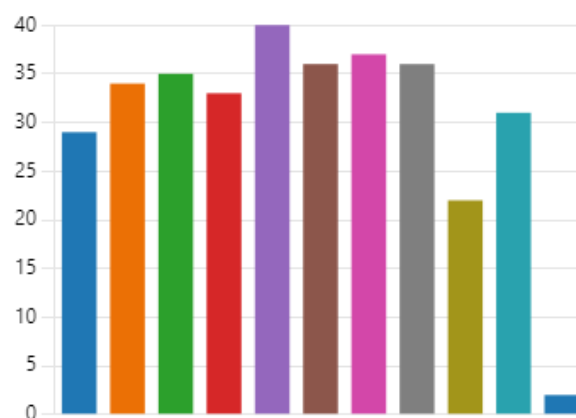


(See figure 1) The Leaving Certificate Vocational Program (LCVP), Leaving Certificate Applied Program (LCAP), and Leaving Certificate Established are all independent of each other, where a student can only enrol in one of the three programmes. As a parent, I believe my child should have the choice to:

When asked which of the specific skills and abilities underpinning the programme, parents' views were as follows (See figure 2):

- 40 parents said that they find it important that their children communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively.
- 37 parents said they find it important that their children investigate and plan career options.
- 36 parents said they find it important that their children work with others as part of a team.
- 36 parents said they find it important that their children will use information and communication technologies.
- 35 parents said that they find it important their children will adapt to changing circumstances.
- 34 parents said they find it important that their children will take responsibility for their own learning.
- 33 parents said they find it important that their children will evaluate data and find solutions to problems.
- 31 parents said they find it important that their children will learn from experiences.
- 29 parents said they find it important that their children will be innovative.
- 22 parents said that they find it important that their children will investigate local businesses and community enterprises.

Be innovative	29
Take responsibility for their own...	34
Adapt to changing circumstances	35
Evaluate data and find solutions...	33
Communicate their thoughts an...	40
Work with others as part of a te...	36
Investigate and plan career opti...	37
Use information and communic...	36
Investigate local business and c...	22
Learn from their experiences	31
Other	2



(Figure 2) Throughout the programme students will develop a wide range of abilities and skills. As a parent, which of these skills and abilities do you find important to your child (Tick all that apply)?

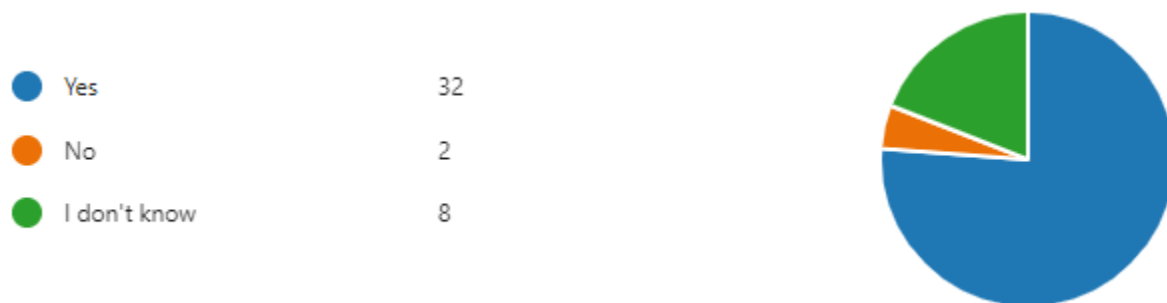
When asked how they want their child to be assessed, 68% of parents said a portfolio of coursework while 21% said examination paper (See figure 3).

Examination Paper	12
A Portfolio of Coursework	38
Other	6



(Figure 3) As a parent, I want my child to be assessed through:

When asked if they agree with the way grades are awarded in the LCVP programme, 76% said yes, 5% said no, and 19% said I don't know (See figure 4).

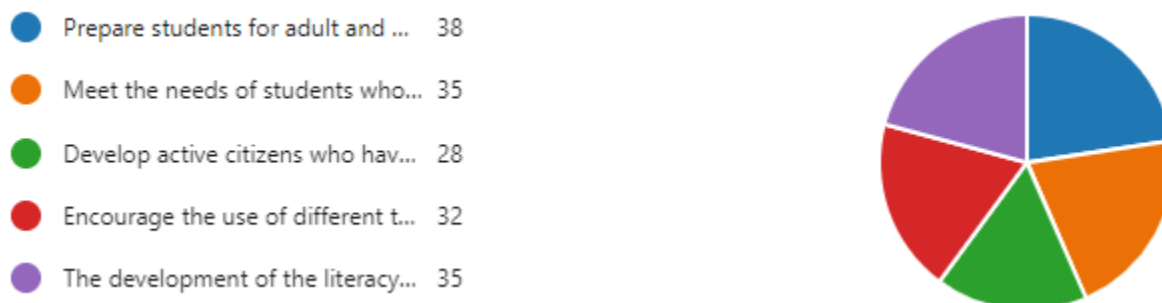


(Figure 4) LCVP students receive the same certificate as students of the Leaving Certificate (established). Grades are awarded as follows:

- Distinction (80 – 100%)
- Merit (65 – 79%)
- Pass (50 – 64%)

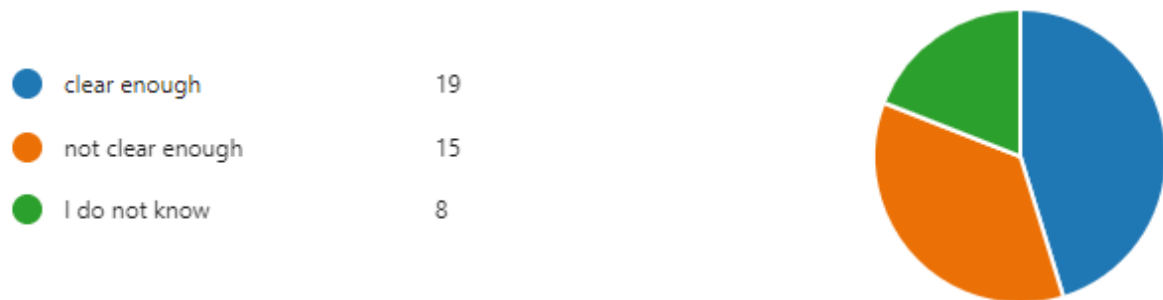
As a parent, I agree with the way grades are awarded.

When asked about which of the principles underlying the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme they find important, 38 parents identified preparing students for adult and working life as important, 35 parents identified meeting the needs of students whose needs do not fit within other Leaving Certificate programmes as important, and 35 parents identified the development of the literacy and numeracy skills of students as important. Meanwhile, 32 parents identified encouraging the use of different teaching methods as important, and 28 parents identified developing active citizens who have a sense of belonging to the local, national, European and global community as important (See figure 5).



(Figure 5) The Leaving Certificate Applied Programme is based on a number of principles. Which of these principles do you find important (Please tick all that apply)?

When asked about their views on the criteria of the assessment and certification of the Leaving Certificate Applied, 45% of parents found it clear enough, 36% found it not clear enough, and 19% said I don't know (See figure 6).



(Figure 6) The following principles apply to the assessment and certification of the Leaving Certificate Applied:

- i. Assessment criteria to be transparent
- ii. Participants to accumulate credit during the programme
- iii. The centrality of the Student Tasks to the nature of the Leaving Certificate Applied
- iv. External examination to incorporate a wide range of techniques
- v. Provision for early leavers to carry credit for achievement

As a parent, I find this criteria: