



New Programme Encourages Students to Get Smart with their Money

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin, TD, today launched 'Get smart with your money', a free, class-based personal development programme aimed at Transition Year students.

The programme is a joint initiative between the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) and the Financial Regulator and is available to schools throughout Ireland from September 2008. 'Get smart with your money' encourages students to explore their attitudes to money and focuses on budgeting, planning ahead, shopping around and saving.

Launching 'Get smart with your money', Social and Family Affairs Minister Mary Hanafin said "having a dedicated module on finance, which helps young people understand budgeting, planning, shopping around and how to manage their resources in order to make the most of their money is very welcome. Students will be able to build on their knowledge from the other financial areas of the curriculum, such as Mathematics, and Business Studies. MABS has a strong record in helping people who are experiencing debt situations and has worked very closely with the Financial Regulator to deliver this programme. "

The 'Get smart with your money' pack contains a teacher's manual, which guides the teacher through the programme using activities, tips, case studies and a glossary. The pack also contains a learner journal for students. This journal is a private and personal resource, designed to allow each learner to record their thoughts on the activities they complete. It contains a range of 'tools' such as a weeklong spending



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diary, a budget planner and a shopping around table to help teach students the skills they will need to be 'smart' with their money.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, the Consumer Director of the Financial Regulator, Mary O'Dea said: "Get smart with your money' is an important resource for schools as it encourages students to think about where their money comes from, what they spend it on and what role money plays in their lives. It offers a great opportunity for students to get to grips with these issues at an early age, helping them to develop good money management habits.

The Financial Regulator and MABS have been offering in-service training nationwide since the start of September and further dates are available in October, to give teachers additional support on the new programme. To book a space at this in-service training, or for more information on the pack, contact education@financialregulator.ie or phone (01) 410 4816.

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