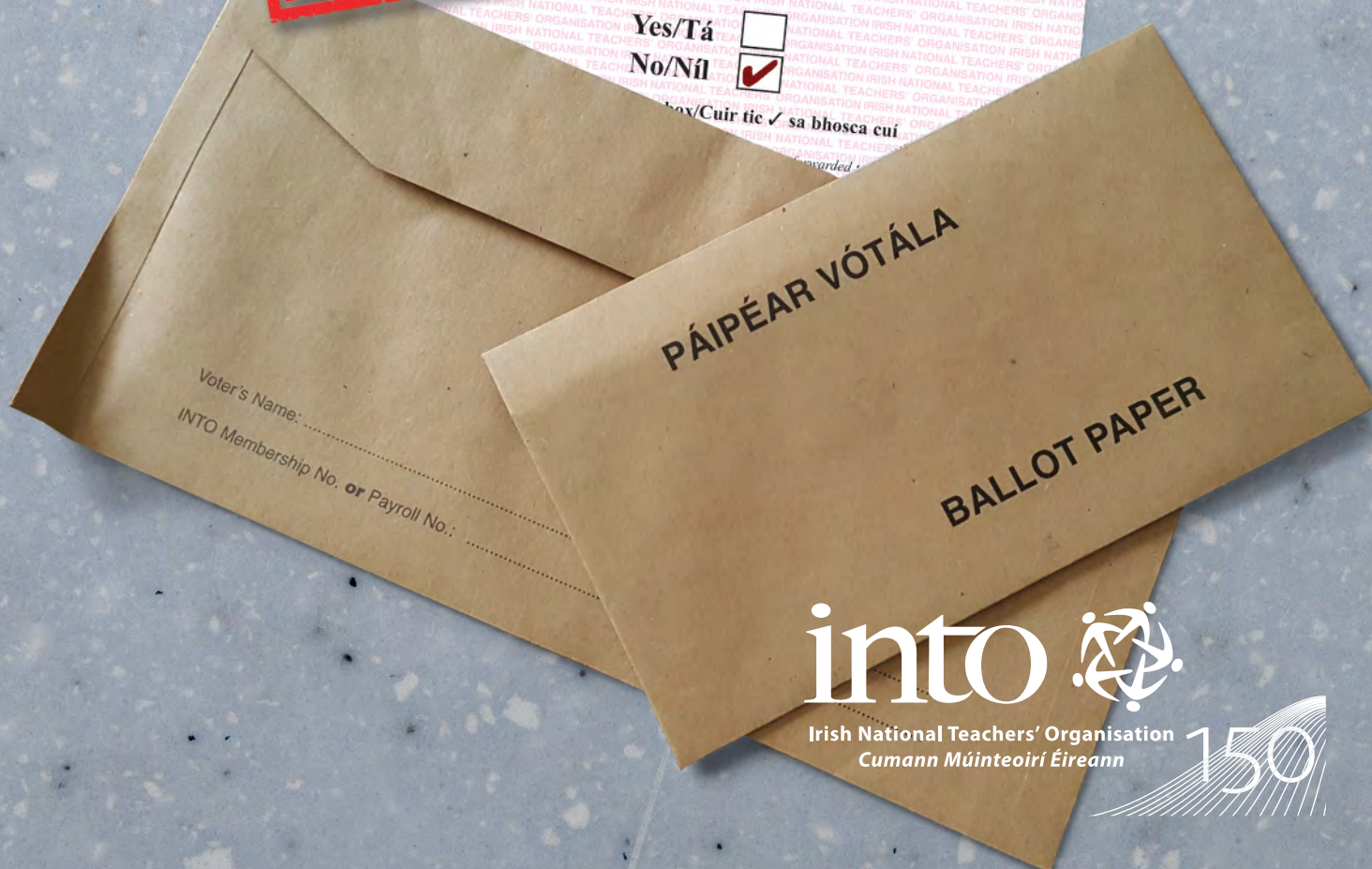


into

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Pay equality *more progress needed*



into



Irish National Teachers' Organisation
Cumann Múinteoirí Éireann

150

Keeping InTouch

{ *Interactive dialogue with members, and key news items* }



GENERAL SECRETARY'S COMMENT

INTO Central Executive Committee pictured at their meeting in August.

Pay set to dominate agenda

Members of the INTO, on the recommendation of the Executive, have rejected the new Public Service Stability Agreement by a substantial margin. It is clear that pay equality is an issue of particular concern to INTO members and, notwithstanding steps taken to date by the union to tackle it, members want significantly more progress on this issue than is provided for in the agreement.

Later this month, a meeting of the Public Services Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions will decide whether or not to accept the terms of the agreement. Although the formal outcome of that meeting is not known at the time of going to press it is most likely that the agreement will be accepted by Congress.

This will require decisive leadership from the Executive, a clear strategy to progress our issues and strong support from the membership over the coming weeks and months.

In preparation for this the Executive has already met and

will, over the coming weeks, consider all options that will be available to us. A briefing meeting for all INTO branch and district officers will be organised and a full update will be provided at October branch meetings. These will be particularly significant meetings this term and every member should do their utmost to attend.

Elsewhere in the world of primary education there has been positive news on the employment front with most redeployment panels now cleared and increased numbers of permanent positions available to primary teachers.

I wish all INTO members a good start to the new school year and look forward to working with you during what will be a challenging but, I hope, successful year ahead.

Sheila Nunan

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Irish National Teachers' Organisation
Cumann Muinteoirí Éireann

150

All units of the INTO are invited to participate in the commemoration of our history and in analysis of priorities for the years ahead, as part of 'INTO 150'.

Founded in 1868 while Ireland was still a colony and in the shadow of the famine years, the INTO is among the country's longest-established unions and, by far, the oldest and largest teachers' union on the island.

Later this year, a history of the INTO will be published, telling the story of the struggle for teachers' rights along with key contests involving powerful interest groups in Church and State.

In addition to the history book, other events and commemorations, currently at the planning stage, will be launched later this year. Any member who wishes to contribute ideas towards 'INTO 150' events is welcome to email Head Office at INTO150@into.ie

INTO Special Congress

21 October 2017

Following a request by a number of INTO districts for a Special Congress in accordance with Rule 20 the CEC decided at its August meeting that a Special Congress will be held on

21 October 2017 in Croke Park, Dublin.
The purpose of the Special Congress is to discuss a motion on Droichead. Further information will be sent to INTO branch and district secretaries

and will be posted on the INTO website.

A briefing will be held for branch and district officers in tandem with this event.

Tell us what you think



InTouch welcomes your letters. Have your say about something you have read in *InTouch* or want to communicate with other INTO members.
€50 voucher draw each month for letter writers.
Email: editor@into.ie or write to: The Editor, *InTouch*,

INTO, Vere Foster House, 35 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

Mark all such communications '*InTouch* Letters' and give a contact telephone number and your INTO membership number for verification. Long letters may be edited.

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« The Irish National Teachers' Organisation ... who's who, what's new, and what's happening »

INTO members reject pay agreement

In July, INTO members rejected the terms of the *Public Service Stability Agreement 2018-2020*, negotiated between public service unions and the government.

The result of the ballot was 89% in favour of rejecting the deal compared to 11% who voted for acceptance.

There was a turnout of 19,172 in the ballot which is 53% of the union's 36,272 members in the Republic of Ireland.

The INTO Executive had recommended rejection.

Speaking after the result was announced, Sheila Nunan, INTO General Secretary, said the result showed the

terms of the agreement were unacceptable to primary teachers.

"The proposed agreement does not progress the issue of pay equality imposed by government on new entrant teachers," said Ms Nunan. "While progress was made in recent years on pay equality this was not continued in the recent pay talks. There was an opportunity to draw a line under discrimination and right a wrong imposed on new entrant teachers. The proposed agreement does not signal an end to pay inequality."

She also said principal teachers at

primary level had been waiting more than ten years for the payment of benchmarking to reduce inequality between primary and post-primary principals. "The proposed agreement offers little prospect of delivery on this within the lifetime of the agreement," said Ms Nunan.

She said the priorities for the INTO had been pay restoration, pay equality, protecting pension benefits and the payment of benchmarking. "While there has been some progress, on a number of key issues for the INTO there has not been enough progress".

What's in the agreement?

Pay

The agreement provides for pay restoration totalling 5.75% between 2018 and 2020.

- ✎ 1 January 2018: salaries to increase by 1%.
- ✎ 1 October 2018: salaries to increase by 1%.
- ✎ 1 September 2019: salaries to increase by 1.75%.
- ✎ 1 October 2020: salaries to increase by 2%.

This represents 5.75% over three years for INTO members.

Pension/Pension Related Deduction

The agreement provides for a reduction in the pension levy and the conversion of the remainder into a permanent Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC). The ASC will reflect the different pension benefits accruing to pre and post 2013 entrants.

This will mean a reduction of €575 in the pension levy for teachers who started pre-2013 and a reduction between €375 and €2,109 in pension levy for post 2013 starters.

The remaining permanent ASC for pre 2013 entrants will

range between 0.8% for a teacher earning €37,500 and 5.95% for a teacher earning €82,500. For post 1 Jan 2013 teachers the permanent ASC will be 0.27% for teachers earning €37,500, and 1.65% for a teacher earning €67,500.

Sample PRD changes pre 1 January 2013 teachers

Salary	Current Pension Levy	Retained as ASC	Restoration
€35,602	€685	€110	€575
€48,150	€1,940	€1,365	€575
€57,506	€2,875	€2,300	€575
€66,869	€3,846	€3,271	€575

Sample PRD changes for post 1 January 2013 teachers

Salary	PRD at 01/09/2017	Retained as ASC	Restoration
€35,602	€685	€37	€648
€48,150	€1,940	€455	€1,485
€57,506	€2,875	€766	€2,109
€66,869	€3,846	€1,089	€2,757

ICTU likely to accept pay agreement

At the time of going to press it appears likely that the Pay Agreement will be accepted by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions at a meeting planned for 18 September.

Over the summer IMPACT and SIPTU,

the two largest public service unions, voted to accept the deal.

The INTO Executive will meet to consider its position following the ICTU meeting on 18 September.

Meet the CEC

Between each Congress, the Central Executive Committee (CEC) manages INTO business. The CEC is made up of the president, vice-president, ex-president, 16 district representatives and three ex-officio members, the general secretary, deputy general secretary/general treasurer and

northern secretary. The CEC generally meets on a monthly basis.

Over the last year *InTouch* has introduced you to your district representatives and the final two representatives are featured this month.

All district representatives on the

CEC are serving primary teachers. Members wishing to contact their representative by phone should not do so during school time except in the most urgent cases.

All contact details for CEC representatives are in the INTO member's diary.

Seamus Hanna – District 1



Seamus Hanna from Newry now lives in Carnmoney. Seamus is currently the principal of St Columban's College in Kilkeel. He has completed a Master's Degree in Curriculum Design and Development, the Professional Qualification in Headship (PQH) and diplomas in Theology and ICT. He is currently studying for a diploma in Employment Law.

Seamus has been chair of his local branch, deputy chair of District 1 and a member of Northern Conference

Standing Orders. He has been a member of the Northern Committee Education Group. He was the District 1 representative on the INTO Equality Committee and he was the post-primary representative for the North Eastern Board on the Northern Committee. Seamus was elected as chair of the Northern Committee for the year 2016/17 which covered the period of industrial action including the INTO strike in January 2017.

Tommy Greally – District 6



Tommy Greally is the newly appointed CEC rep for District 6 covering the counties of Galway (12 branches) and Roscommon (4 branches). Tommy was educated in Balaghlea NS, Coláiste Mhuire, Ballygar, graduating from St Patrick's, Drumcondra, in 1982.

Tommy started his teaching career in the Marist NS, Athlone. It was here that his interest in INTO affairs was cultivated. He was staff representative during the 1984 strike, an event that has convinced him of the importance

of unity, cooperation and clarity of message. After teaching briefly in Crumlin NS, Ballyglunin, he became teaching principal in Lavally NS, Tuam, in 1986, a position he currently holds.

As a member of the INTO, Tommy has been chairperson and secretary of Mountbellew Branch and a member of the district standing committee before becoming district secretary in 2010.

News briefs

Carer's leave update

The carer's leave circular has been updated with the publication of *Terms and Conditions for Registered Teachers in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools* (Version 2).

In particular, the INTO welcomes the following changes which the union had sought:

- ◆ that in emergency situations, a board of management may process an application and grant carer's leave to a teacher pending DSP approval;
- ◆ that a teacher may engage in substitute teaching, other work outside teaching, undertake training or an education course, provided the aggregate hours of employment (including substitute teaching), training or education do not exceed the statutory weekly 15 hour limit and that the net earnings from all

employment do not exceed the approved weekly limit set by the DSP (currently €332.50 net per week); and
◆ that the payment of summer holiday pay following carer's leave, will not be affected by the amount of carer's leave taken by a teacher in a school year.

A member considering carer's leave may contact the INTO queryline for advice. Please ensure you include your INTO membership number or teacher number in any correspondence.

Explicit provision made for partial return to work

The INTO welcomes the explicit provision for partial return to work in the sick leave scheme, which was the subject of a resolution at Congress 2015. This provision is contained in Version 2 of the DES web book, which updates and consolidates 11 areas of *Terms and*

Conditions of Employment for Registered Teachers in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools. The web book can be accessed at www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Employment-Terms-and-Conditions/

Allocation of SNAs to schools

At the end of the last school year, the INTO strongly criticised the failure of the DES to announce the allocation of SNAs to schools in a timely fashion. The union said such delays had an effect on real people with families and responsibilities and was an unnecessary headache for school leadership. In July, when the allocations had still not been announced, the INTO president, John Boyle, expressed concerns on this on RTE's *Morning Ireland* programme.

INTO Principals' and Deputy Principals' Conference 2017

The INTO Principals' and Deputy Principals' Conference takes place on Friday, 29 September and Saturday, 30 September in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar.

The theme of this conference is 'Effective working between principals and deputy principals – two flints make a fire'.

Registration opens at 1.30p.m. on Friday and the conference will be opened at 2.30p.m. by INTO president John Boyle.

The DES has given approval for leave of absence for delegates to attend the conference. A copy of the letter is available on the conference page on the INTO website. However, substitute cover is not available.

Full coverage of the conference is also available on the INTO website.

Highlights on Friday will include the presentation of the conference background paper by members of the PDC, inputs on good practice from experienced principals and deputy principals, and addresses by the Centre for School Leadership and INTO general secretary Sheila Nunan.

On Saturday, there will be a series of workshops for delegates and a keynote address by Jacinta Kitt, former primary teacher and author of *Positive Behaviours, Relationships and Emotions – the heart of leadership in a school* (see *InTouch* April 2017 for a review of this work). The conference will conclude at 1p.m.

The INTO Conference app will allow delegates to view the conference agenda, locate the conference venue, view speeches, connect with friends and receive reminders of key events and news alerts during the event. The free app is available for download from the App Store and Google Play.

Further details are available on the INTO website.



INTO Bursary Scheme reminder

The deadline for the annual INTO Bursary Awards 2017/18 is Friday, 29 September 2017.

For a copy of the application form and terms and conditions, please refer to www.into.ie/ROI/EducationNews/

Dates for your diary

INTO events 2017-2018

September 2017	INTO Principals' & Deputy Principals' Conference
Fri/Sat 29/30	Venue: Mullingar Park Hotel, Co Westmeath
October 2017	Presidential Dinner
Saturday 07	Venue: Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire Tickets: Donncha McGinley, District 8 Email: intodistrict8@into.ie
October 2017	INTO Special Conference
Saturday 21	Venue: Croke Park, Dublin
November 2017	INTO LGBT Group AGM
Friday 17	Venue: Central Hotel, Dublin Email: lgbt@into.ie
November 2017	INTO Education Conference
Fri/Sat 17/18	Venue: Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny
January 2018	Motions for INTO Annual Congress
	Motions should be submitted through branches at AGMs. Want to be a delegate to Congress? Attend your AGM this month. Check date and venue with your staff rep.
February 2018	Motions for Congress 2018
Wednesday 07	Motions must be submitted online by 5 p.m.
March 2018	INTO Northern Conference
Fri/Sat 02/03	Venue: Lough Erne Resort, Enniskillen
April 2018	INTO Annual Congress
Mon/Wed 02-04	Venue: Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney Download the conference app and find more info on www.into.ie
May 2018	May branch meetings
	Check with your staff representative for date and venue of your branch meeting

Retirement planning seminars

There will be five retirement planning seminars taking place over the course of the 2017/18 school year:

- 13/14 October 2017: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin 9
- 24/25 November 2017: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin 9

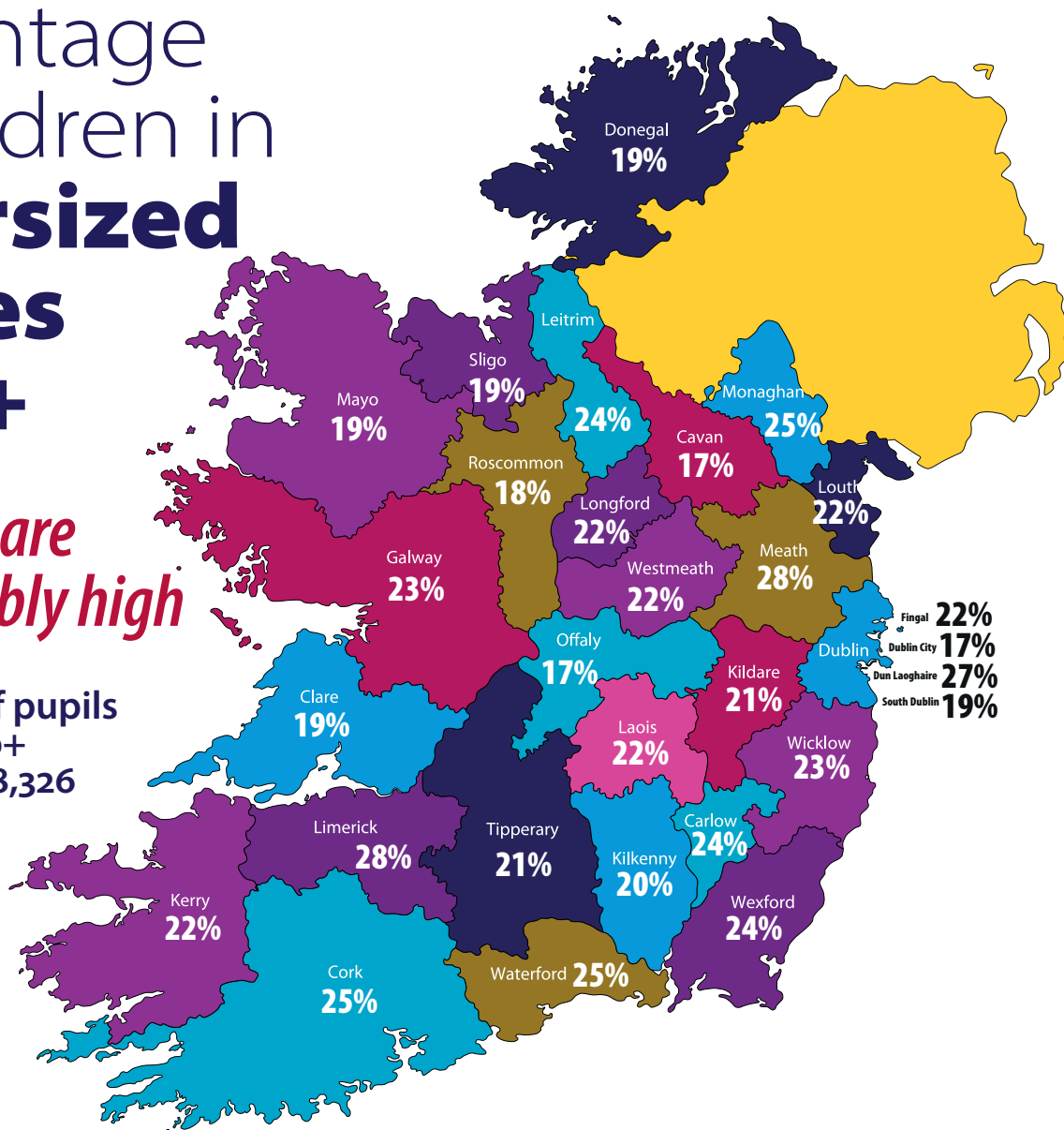
- 26/27 January 2018: Sligo Park Hotel

A further two seminars will be announced in January 2018. Further details regarding registration are available on www.into.ie.

Percentage of children in supersized classes of 30+

Class sizes are unacceptably high

The number of pupils in classes of 30+ in 2016/17 = 118,326



Partial restoration of posts of responsibility

At the time of writing, a circular is expected from the DES in respect of the partial restoration of posts of responsibility in primary schools.

Budget 2017 allocated €7m for posts of responsibility (Sept-Dec 2017), which included primary/post-primary posts and appointment of admin deputies in large second-level schools. This provided approximately €6.1m per year for primary, which would give 1,200-1,300 additional posts at primary level.

In September 2016, the agreement on new entrant pay and related commitments set out agreement on a review of the post of responsibility structure, in the context of restoration, addressing:

- ⌘ Development of a distributed leadership structure, and the creation of a leadership team with appropriately defined and shared responsibilities.
- ⌘ Accountability of post-holders to principals, colleagues, management.
- ⌘ Progressive introduction of open recruitment for deputy principal posts.
- ⌘ Re-designation of assistant principal/special duties posts as assistant principal 1 and assistant principal 2 respectively.
- ⌘ Flexibility in post-holders responsibilities to meet needs of school, including consultation and review of duties.

- ⌘ The grounds for appeal confined to alleged breach of procedure.
- ⌘ The existing selection criteria to be revised to phase out seniority as a stand-alone criterion.

Discussions have taken place over the summer months between the INTO and DES in respect of the implementation of the agreement, and on the proposed method of allocation of posts. The INTO is aware of the acute need to restore posts to primary schools to distribute responsibilities, and to ensure that teachers have access to career progression.

It is hoped that the circular will issue early in the school year.

Revised pay scales from 1 September 2017

The DES has issued revised pay scales from 1 September 2017.

These scales include an uplift of €796 at all points to complete the commitment to recognise supervision and substitution (S&S) work within the pay scale. This takes the form of a change to basic fortnightly pay rather than a lump sum payment.

Since 1 September 2013, teachers have done supervision without receiving an 'S&S' payment.

The INTO, in the Haddington Road Agreement (HRA, 2013), negotiated the

restoration/reintroduction of an S&S-related payment, with half included in the pay scale in the school year 2016/17 and the second half included in the year 2017/18. At the Lansdowne Road Agreement (LRA) talks in 2015, the INTO secured a commitment that payment would be in place from 1 September 2017, the earliest date in the new school year.

Between this change, the earlier payment of an LRA €1,000 on to scales (April 2017), and the securing (through INTO negotiation in late 2016) of an

amount within scales related to an honours degree allowance, the entry point for current joiners has increased between 1 September 2016 and 1 September 2017 by €2,797 (from €31,805 to €34,602).

All points of scales are affected and full details are set out in Circular 0053/2017. For example, the top point of scale (without taking account of qualification allowance) has moved by €1,796, from €60,155 in September 2016 to €61,951 from 1 September 2017.

Circular 0053/2017 can be viewed on the INTO website.

Revised incremental salary scale for teachers who entered teaching before 1 February 2012, to apply with effect from 1 September 2017. Qualification allowances continue to be paid to this cohort of teachers in accordance with relevant Circulars.

Revised scale from 1 September 2017

Appointed prior to 1 January 2011		Appointed between 1 January 2011 and 31 January 2012	
Point	€	Point	€
	30,684	1	
	32,141	2	
1	33,805	3	
2	34,564	4	
3	35,633	5	
4	36,705	6	
5	38,367	7	
6	39,445	8	
7	40,521	9	
8	43,232	10	
9	44,586	11	
10	46,204	12	
11	47,814	13	
12	49,436	14	
13	50,792	15	
14	52,588	16	
15	52,588	17	
16	52,588	18	
17	55,064	19	
18	55,064	20	
19	55,064	21	
20	55,064	22	
21	58,336	23	
22	58,336	24	
23	58,336	25	
24	58,336	26	
25	61,951	27	

Revised incremental salary scale for teachers who entered teaching on or after 1 February 2012, to apply with effect from 1 September 2017. Qualification allowances are not payable to this cohort of teachers.

Revised scale from 1 September 2017

Appointed on or after 1 February 2012	
Point	€
1	34,602
2	36,410
3	37,633
4	39,325
5	40,469
6	41,843
7	43,292
8	44,752
9	45,972
10	47,869
11	48,546
12	49,355
13	51,275
14	52,086
15	52,764
16	53,662
17	55,134
18	55,134
19	56,372
20	56,372
21	57,999
22	57,999
23	59,635
24	62,306
25	62,893
26	62,893
27	64,701

Check your pay slips

Members should check that the following are reflected in their pay slips this year.

- ✳ **September 2017:**
Second half of S&S payment (LRA), a further €796, incorporated in scale for all teachers.
- ✳ **January 2018:**
Second half of the restoration of the HRA pay-cut for those earning €65,000.
- ✳ **January 2018:**
Phase two of allowance restoration to teachers who started since 2012 (LRA).
- ✳ **1 January 2018:**
Salaries to increase by 1% (PSSA).

Members should note that the flat rate €1,000 due to be added to the scale for every teacher on 1 September 2017 was paid on the earlier date of 1 April 2017 after union negotiations with government.

Where your INTO subscription goes

1 This is the first in a series of articles on how INTO members' money is spent to further the objects of the Organisation, and the checks and balances in place around this.

These articles, in the interests of transparency, are prepared by the Finance and Membership Section where day-to-day management of INTO funds is undertaken.

Checks and balances

The INTO has a series of internal controls for sign off on invoices and claims, while specific items of major expenditure must be pre-approved by elected committees, e.g. funding of legal representation requires joint sanction by the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and Benefit Funds Committee (BFC).

The CEC annually appoints two members as Examiners of Accounts and these examiners meet quarterly to review finances and report to the CEC. An Accounts Committee, with one representative elected per INTO district, meets annually for two days to review the previous calendar year's accounts and reports to Congress. The deputy general secretary/general treasurer is responsible for keeping accounts and for presenting a financial statement at INTO Annual Congress. The reports and financial statements for Congress are audited externally. The INTO's current external auditors are Mazars.



Amount of INTO subscription

The rate of subscription paid by a member varies, with reductions applicable at the start of career and for members working as substitute teachers. The subscription



also varies by jurisdiction with separate rates for categories of members in Northern Ireland.

The full subscription paid by the majority of members is currently €13.35 per fortnight, or €347.10 per annum. This was reduced from its previous €386.10 and is at a similar level to where it was in 2005. It has been possible to run the Organisation on this subscription due to increased membership in recent years.

The main INTO subscription in Northern Ireland is based on a percentage of salary rather than a flat rate. A consultation process about moving to a percentage rate in the Republic of Ireland is taking place in light of revised public service regulations about deduction at source. Any decision to change the subscription is one for INTO Annual Congress.

Total income and expenditure

In these articles, the INTO's audited accounts for 2016 are used when examining income and expenditure. These accounts were approved by Belfast Congress 2017.

Total INTO income for 2016 was €13.4 million, €12.2 million of which came from member subscriptions. INTO expenditure was €11.7 million. Although income exceeded expenditure, the accounts showed a deficit due to an actuarial loss on the INTO staff pension scheme. Nonetheless, INTO assets exceeded liabilities at the end of 2016.

INTO rules and funds

Under our rules, the membership subscription is allocated among certain 'funds' as directed by Annual Congress (Rule 78). The funds are specified at Rule 106, and a contribution is also paid into the INTO staff pension scheme.

Income from INTO subscription is allocated across 11 funds. Forthcoming articles will outline the income and expenditure for each of these.

The next article looks at the General Fund which is the main working fund of the INTO and accounts for €4.23 out of every €10 paid in membership subscription.

Irish Congress of Trade Unions Biennial Delegate

General secretary elected as president of ICTU

At the Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) Sheila Nunan was elected as president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. She is the fourth INTO general secretary to become president of ICTU, following in the footsteps of T.J. O'Connell, Gerry Quigley and Joe O'Toole. She also follows INTO members Jeremiah Hurley and Matt Griffin who also occupied this honorary position at the head of the country's trade union movement.

Following her election, she addressed the conference of 400 delegates from 40 unions in Belfast and set out intergenerational solidarity and international solidarity as two key themes for her work during her term of office.

Ms Nunan told the conference that housing and decent work were linked. "You can't have one without the other."

"Decent work and decent pay concerns us all, north and south, and can only be addressed by continuing our advocacy and campaign on the Charter for Decent Work. We must tackle the low wage economy north and south, the scandal of the public sector pay cap in the north and pay equality in the south, a divisive legacy of the recession. We need to exploit every opportunity to fight against precarious work using the mechanisms won in our

restoring industrial relations legislation. Properly funded activation and training

supports are needed to tackle youth unemployment".



INTO presidents of ICTU

INTO representatives who have served as ICTU presidents (bearing in mind that the INTO was affiliated with the ITUC from 1918, through the 'split'

period when there were two federations, and that the 'ICTU' formally dates from 1959) comprises:

- T.J. O'Connell, 1930

- Jeremiah Hurley, 1938
- Matt Griffin, 1976
- Gerry Quigley, 1989
- Joe O'Toole, 2001-2003
- Sheila Nunan, 2017-2019

INTO president seeks more investment in education

INTO president John Boyle told BDC 2017 that the only thing more expensive than investing in education is not investing in education.

He said every cent spent on education was an investment in every citizen. "Not everyone will go to university. Yet every child in Ireland will attend primary and secondary school. What they experience there will have an impact for life."

He told the BDC that the INTO's vision for education was one of small classes that allow teachers to support each child individually. "We need well-funded schools with professional, dedicated teachers who are led and supported by excellent school leaders. We believe that, with proper

funding and support, all children will have a real chance to fulfil their potential, whatever challenges they face."

Mr Boyle said the trade union movement must campaign for a huge increase in the education budget so that children from marginalised communities and children with special education needs can be guaranteed equal and inclusive access to lifelong education.

He said the quality of Irish teachers was envied all over the world, yet politicians were implementing policies designed to train teachers for export. "How can a government expect the continuation of that quality when it insists on paying young teachers at a different rate to those

who graduated before 2011?" he asked. "How can politicians justify the awarding of a ZERO per cent pay award to teachers in Northern Ireland?"



e Conference 2017 Belfast July 4 - 6

Of the discourse that we need and the role of the trade union movement



Sheila Nunan welcoming President Michael D. Higgins to the BDC in Belfast. Also pictured are Nuala McAllister, Lord Mayor of Belfast, Joe O'Flynn, SIPTU General Secretary and Patricia King, General Secretary, ICTU.

Trade unions are collective. There is a culture that goes with collectivity, a strength that comes from membership, from what is shared as a value beyond the self.

The President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins addressed the opening session of the BDC hailing the contribution of the trade union movement, Ireland's largest civic society body, to the evolution of politics, economic and society in every part of this island as essential and emancipatory in so many ways.

He said it was a powerful tradition from which civil rights movements, the anti-apartheid movement and equal rights movements could call on for support. "It is important that, on all parts of this island, we acknowledge the role of the trade union movement from its beginnings down to our times in opposing sectarianism."

The president said the trade union movement now faced new challenges and he wished it the same courage as those who handed on such a fine tradition. "These challenges can be faced. It will involve revealing and challenging some powerful myths that have been established, myths without empirical evidence, and that can more easily flourish in an era of concentration of

ownership in media, decline in public service broadcasting, and an anti-intellectualism that serves those who hold unaccountable power as much as it prevents workers knowing the basis for policy choices that affect our lives."

On education he asked if it was not a noble aspiration that every child, girl or boy, would be able to have access to all such education as is necessary for their human development. "If this be so, should the state that provides such opportunity not unreasonably expect that the early tax yield in such employment as is made possible by state-assisted qualification should accrue to the providing state, so as to enable its yield to be recycled and create the capacity of ever-more high class skills?"

"Of one thing I am certain: the contribution of the trade union movement in facing these challenges is essential for the discourse that we need."

Full speech available at www.president.ie/en/media-library/speeches/address-at-the-biennial-conference-of-the-irish-congress-of-trade-unions

Deputy general secretary calls for a stronger voice for retired workers

Noel Ward, INTO Deputy General Secretary and Treasurer, seconding a motion on retired workers, highlighted the fact that age-related insecurities persist in terms of both income adequacy and in services for older people.

He called for a stronger voice to be given to retired workers.

"This is trade union business, in the context of our equality and anti-discrimination values," said Mr Ward.

"We all need to develop structures for our retired members. There are organisational issues for each union to face in doing this, such as certain decisions, including only those directly affected, but all such issues can be resolved by consensus and common sense."

He argued that, for both serving and retired public servants in the Republic of Ireland, rolling back and wiping out the FEMPI legislation was a necessity.

He highlighted the serious risk of pension poverty for retired workers. "There is no issue more fundamental than tackling the pensions crisis facing all workers but especially those in private sector employments where pension schemes no longer exist."



Photos: Kevin Cooper www.kevincooperphotoline.com

ICTU Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) 2017 continued

Call for free universal childcare

INTO Equality Officer and delegate to ICTU Biennial Conference, Alison Gilliland made a call for free universal public childcare funded through progressive taxation and greater investment prioritisation.

A public system would afford an appropriate career path, salary scale and pension provision for childcare workers unlike the precarious contracts experienced by many in the private provision sector.

Free universal childcare would remove the enormous cost of childcare costs, often coupled with high rents or mortgages from the shoulders of working families. Too often childcare costs result in a parent, generally the mother, reducing her working hours or giving up work temporarily. Single mothers are particularly at risk of falling out of the workforce completely. Not only does this inhibit women's career paths and advancement, contribute to the gender pay gap and future pension pay gap but it also deprives the state of income taxes – a real false economy.

Initial and continued investment to fund public childcare would be returned through greater, more active worker participation and advancement, particularly of women, in the labour market, less worker stress and a quality professionalised childcare sector.

INTO delegates demand action on housing

Teresa Walsh, District 9, outlined to BDC the direct effect of homelessness on the education of children.

Citing a Focus Ireland report that, in February, identified 2,546 children living in emergency accommodation, she said the fundamental right to home is denied by the current housing crisis.

She said children experienced the relentless stress and tension felt by their parents. Teachers see children are coming to school with strain etched on their faces and personalities. They come without food, hungry without breakfasts, relying on convenience food purchased en route.

Children experiencing homelessness come to school tired, because it's hard to get a good night's sleep if there is a whole family in one room, in cramped conditions.

They are not completing their homework because there is nowhere quiet to do it. They have no space to play or allow their friends to come over.

Homelessness has the potential to fundamentally limit the life chances of children. We need to resolve the homeless crisis and ensure that each child has access to every opportunity to help them achieve their potential.

Eimear Allen (INTO) outlined to BDC the daunting challenge facing young workers trying to enter the housing market.

She said working and living in Dublin, like many young people, she was finding it increasingly difficult to pay the exorbitant rents being set by landlords. "It has become near impossible to pay the current level of rent and save for a house at the same time."

"Rent has now surpassed the 2008 levels. A two-bed apartment which I rented in a suburb of Dublin has jumped from €1,000 to €1,600 a month in barely four years. By current standards that price is considered a good deal. Add bills to that cost and over half my net pay is going to basic accommodation costs."

I am currently trying to find a new property to rent and this is proving to be extremely challenging. I've attended viewings of rental properties with over 50 other prospective tenants. Bringing along a large

sum of cash, a copy of your passport and even a payslip has become the norm to merely get your hat into the ring.

It is totally unacceptable that modest accommodation is beyond the means of ordinary people. This problem is fixable. Congress must put this issue at the forefront of the Government's agenda.



Teresa Walsh, District 9



Eimear Allen, INTO

Find more information about BDC at www.ictu.ie

Action needed on global solidarity and the gender pay gap

John O'Brien, INTO Official, spoke to conference on global solidarity. He said the most important part of the motion was about the trade union movement's role in defeating racial discrimination and combating efforts to divide ordinary people, while defending the positive role of working people who emigrate to Ireland.

For most workers, and the public at large, their daily experience of involvement with, or visualisation of globalisation and the need for global solidarity principles, is their daily

engagement with people who are 'refugees' or people who have emigrated to Ireland, whether from EU countries or from further afield. It's a real issue and pretending there are no racist tendencies in Ireland is not true. We must mitigate against any growth of alienation that some Irish people feel, whether instigated by elements in the media or other sources.

Speaking to a motion on the gender pay gap, Deirdre O'Connor, Assistant General Secretary, referred specifically to the negative impact of the gender pay gap on pensions.

She said that women were retiring on lower salaries, with less service and thus had smaller pensions. "Broken service also makes it more likely that women in the public service end up in inferior pension schemes," she told the conference.

While she acknowledged that many workers outside the public service had little or no pension provision, she argued that the women workers who teach our children, care for the sick, elderly and disabled, and provide other valuable public services should be entitled to a decent retirement.

INTO honours John Coolahan's contribution to education

Last June, the INTO acknowledged the huge contribution of John Coolahan to education. The CEC decided to present Dr Coolahan with the INTO President's Medal as a mark of appreciation for his work and his long association with the INTO over many decades.

At a ceremony in Club na Múinteoirí, Sheila Nunan, General Secretary, paid a warm tribute to Dr Coolahan.

Former INTO activist and school principal Éamon Ó Murchú collected a range of material related to the development of special education in Ireland and INTO's involvement in this. In June he formally handed this archive over to the INTO as an early event to mark 'INTO 150'.

The evening included reflections by Dr John Coolahan, a presentation by Éamon, and the formal acceptance of the material by John Boyle, INTO President.



Pictured l to r: Noel Ward, INTO Deputy General Secretary/General Treasurer; Dr John Coolahan; John Boyle, INTO President; Sheila Nunan, General Secretary and Éamon Ó Murchú

INTO members raise €60,000 for Our Lady's Children's Hospital

The Children's Medical & Research Foundation Annual INTO Draw took place in June in INTO Head Office. The winners were:

Prize	Winner
1st Toyota Auris	Aoife O'Mahony, Cork City South West
2nd €4,000	Brigid McGonagle, Carndonagh/Moville
3rd €2,000	Anne Fitzpatrick, North Carlow
4th €2,000	Mary O'Donnell, Cashel
5th €1,500	Laura Reidy, Tralee
6th €1,500	Áine Crawford, Dublin North Bay
7th €1,000	Seán McGroarty, Ballyshannon/North Leitrim
8th €1,000	Elaine Howard, Dublin North Bay
9th €1,000	Michelle O'Riordan, Dún Laoghaire
10th €1,000	Peter Ryan, Fermoy

The CEC would like to thank members who contributed so generously to the INTO Members' Draw 2017 in aid of the Children's Medical and Research Foundation at Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin.

A cheque for €60,000 was presented to the CMRF and will be used to purchase an Echo Machine for the Children's Heart Centre at the hospital.

The INTO sponsored five further prizes of €100 for staff representatives to thank



Pictured l to r: Mary McCarron, Principal, Our Lady's Children's Hospital School, Helen Shortt, Chief Executive, John Boyle, INTO President, Iver O'Donovan, Annemarie Lally, Dr Paul Oslizlok, Cardiologist and Gerry Cully, CMRF Crumlin Hospital Liaison Manager. Iver and Annemarie's daughter has recently received life saving treatment in the Children's Heart Centre at Our Lady's Children's Hospital.

Pictured right is Aoife O'Mahony who won the top prize – a Toyota Auris – in the draw.



them for their contribution towards the success of the CMR Raffle. These prizes were paid by the INTO General Fund and not taken from ticket sales. The five winners are:

Vivinne Costello, Tallaght Branch
Muireann Foynes, Dublin North East
Nuala Beattie, Arklow Branch
Dervla Fox, Longford Branch
Eamonn Kitt, Tuam Branch

Droichead

Induction for NQTs in SEN and 24+ class teacher schools

From September 2017, Droichead will be the mechanism to complete induction for teachers in SEN settings and in schools with 24 or more mainstream class teachers.

The INTO directive on the previous version of Droichead was lifted by the CEC who determined the directive had served its purpose in bringing about significant changes to Droichead. The Executive also considered it important to ensure that NQTs in special education settings and NQTs employed in schools of 24+ class teachers next year have a pathway to full registration.

In these schools probation will be replaced by Droichead, a supported, non-evaluative induction process.

The INTO made significant improvements in this process which are set to benefit newly-qualified teachers. Among these are:

- Droichead is non-evaluative – principals/teachers support not evaluate NQTs through Droichead;
- there are specific supports such as substitute cover for release time/training for teachers supporting an NQT.
- principal teachers are not obliged to be

part of a PST (Professional Support Team).

- a teacher external to the school may be appointed to a PST.

A primary teacher in these schools will normally undertake Droichead when employed as a mainstream class teacher. Paid employment in a permanent, temporary or substitute capacity is eligible. A job-sharing teacher cannot apply for Droichead.

Where an NQT is the most appropriate teacher s/he may complete Droichead in a:

- special class in a mainstream school;
- class in a special school;
- full-time resource post for pupils with low-incidence disabilities;
- full-time learning support post;
- combined LS/RT post.
- SET post (from September 2017).

How does Droichead work?

There are three elements to the process:

School-based strand

The NQT is required to engage with the PST at school level. During the course of Droichead, an NQT has a number of

interactions/professional conversations with experienced colleagues on the PST. Observations are a feature of Droichead including arranged observation by the NQT of more experienced teachers' practice and observation of the NQT's practice by the PST.

Additional professional learning activities

NQTs are required to engage in one cluster meeting per term, in a local education centre facilitated by the NIPT. NQTs should also engage in one other professional learning activity, identified by themselves in accordance with their professional learning needs, in consultation with the PST.

Concluding Droichead

On completion of the school-based strand the NQT confirms s/he has engaged with school based induction, attended a cluster meeting and one other professional learning activity, engaged in reflective practice and states that they believe they are ready to move to the next stage of professional learning.

The NQT and PST jointly declare that they believe the information given by the NQT is accurate, and that they have participated in a quality teaching and learning process, and ask the Council to reflect that on the register. On receipt of this, the Council will lift the condition relating to induction from their registration.

Applying for Droichead

NQTs can apply by sending Form DR 1 to the Teaching Council www.teachingcouncil.ie within five working days of commencing employment in a Droichead school in an eligible post of minimum 60 consecutive school days. Full details of Droichead are available on the Teaching Council website www.teachingcouncil.ie/en/Teacher-Education/Droichead

Autumn training for INTO officers

INTO branch secretaries, branch chairpersons and branch organisers, district secretaries, district chairpersons, district treasurers, district training organisers and CEC representatives should please note the following dates for trade union training this term. More detailed information will be posted on the Officers' Extranet and sent directly to those attending.

Cluster	Districts	Dates	Venue
South East	10 & 11	Thurs 21 and Fri 22 Sept	Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny
Dublin & Midlands	7, 8, 9	Thurs 5 and Fri 6 Oct	Tullamore Court Hotel
South West	12, 13, 16	Thurs 12 and Fri 13 Oct	Midleton Park Hotel
West	3, 4, 6	Thurs 19 and Fri 20 Oct	Sligo Park Hotel
North East & Dublin	4, 14, 15	Wed 8 and Thurs 9 Nov	Mullingar Park Hotel

INTO LGBT Teachers' Group

Dublin LGBTQ Pride

The INTO LGBT Teachers' Group marched in Dublin LGBTQ Pride on Saturday 24 June, waving rainbow flags and dancing to the sound of MaSamba's beats. The new route drew an even bigger crowd and Dublin's streets were filled with families, supporters, LGBT groups and their friends. The INTO LGBT Teachers' Group was supported by John Boyle, INTO President; Alison Gilliland, Equality Officer; CEC members, friends, teacher colleagues and students.

Save the date: INTO LGBT goes west in September

The INTO LGBT Teachers' Group will hold its next meeting in Sligo, to facilitate teachers in the west and north-west of the country. The meeting will take place in the Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo, at 2 p.m. on Saturday 23 September and will be followed by a social evening in Sligo town. Further information at lgbt@into.ie or via Facebook or Twitter. The INTO LGBT AGM will take place in the Central Hotel, Dublin on Friday, 17 November at 7.30 p.m.



Invitation to all schools

Take part in the 2017 World's Largest Lesson this coming 17 September to 17 October

THE GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



- **TEACH JUST ONE** Global Goals **LESSON** in your class or school about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) during September/October.
- Join us on 17 October (11.00 to 11.30a.m.) for the live streaming of our 17 recycled Global Goals Boats of Hope Launch on the Liffey.
- Take your own local action on Tuesday 17 October, the UN End World Poverty Day of Action.
- Share your actions on Facebook and Twitter via [@globalcitizenshipschool](https://twitter.com/globalcitizenshipschool) or to INTO.

What are the Global Goals?

The 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development, universally agreed at the UN in Sept 2015, plot the road for humanity up to 2030 and aim to end world poverty, promote justice and take climate action.

See www.into.ie/ROI/GlobalCitizenshipSchool/ or www.globalgoals.org for more details and free lessons.

"I want to wish this project, Global Citizenship School, every success and I do hope that schools will take it up all over Ireland." President Michael D. Higgins with pupils from Fermanagh, Cork and Dublin at the Mansion House, Dublin in May 2016.



A budget for the many not the few

In an address to the MacGill Summer School in Glenties, Co Donegal, in July, Sheila Nunan, INTO General Secretary, called for Budget 2018 to be the first of a series of budgets that would begin to address the casualties and consequences of the recent economic crash.

Among the priorities she listed were:

- the housing emergency;
- tackling significant infrastructure deficit in areas like transport, broadband, renewable energy, childcare and water;
- substantial pressure points on public services, particularly health and education.

She said if budgetary policy tackled these deficits the country could begin to lay the foundations for a more dynamic economy and a fairer society. In this context she said further income or capital gains tax cuts made no moral or economic sense.

She called for increased revenue raising measures to around 2.5% of current government spending to be used to repair national deficits. This, she said, was not an optional extra. "On a no policy change basis, by 2021 Ireland will have the lowest public spending to GDP ratio in the EU which the IMF projected to be 25.8% compared to 46.6% in the Euro area".

Homelessness

Tackling the housing crisis was the



national priority which, she said, was getting worse. She particularly focused on the more than 2,500 children experiencing homelessness in Dublin.

She said teachers see children bringing the strain of that lived reality to school, without a breakfast because families lack cooking facilities, without a good night's sleep because whole families sleep in one room. "Teachers know how this will impact on their educational prospects and life chances," she said. "Budget 2018 must start to wipe the stain of this policy failure from the collective social fabric."

Health

"A modern functioning health service is only possible if Ireland moves to an adequately funded, publicly controlled and universally accessible single tier national health service," said Ms Nunan who also warned additional investment would be required to cope with an aging population. She suggested that a long-term target of 10% of GDP should be set for health spending.

Education

Education spending is far short of what was needed to equip children, students

and workers with the skills needed for a fast changing world. Pointing out OECD research showing expenditure per student, relative to GDP per capita, among the lowest in OECD countries, she said "not only were our schools overcrowded and underfunded but areas like mental health services for young people, psychological services and speech and language interventions were compromised by underfunding". She said children get one chance in primary schools; it must be top class.

She called for real increases in per pupil funding over the next three or four years to bring Ireland to the average of other high income western European EU countries which, she argued, would require an extra €2 billion per annum. Among the revenue raising measures that were needed were:

- a small wealth tax on households with net assets in excess of €1million;
- increased employer PRSI on incomes in excess of €100,000;
- reform of income tax which would see the personal tax credit gradually withdrawn from higher income earners and eliminated for those with incomes in excess of €100,000;
- an end to the temporary VAT reduction in the hospitality sector;
- an end to the Help to Buy Scheme; and
- increases in betting taxes and excise on tobacco.

BUDGET 2018

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From restaurants to hotels, cinemas to fashion, leisure centres to golf courses, hairdressers to big brand names, there is something for everyone, with significant savings in a short space of time.

Use your INTO Membership Plus Card to gain access to a great range of special offers and discounts for you and your family to enjoy across Ireland, Northern Ireland and further abroad

Ensure you have activated your 2016-18 card to view the full range of offers, be kept up-to-date with new offers throughout the year, enter fantastic competitions and much more.

To activate your card, simply go to www.membershipplus.ie/teachers.

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With Membership Plus you can join Sky Ireland today and get 30% off any Sky TV

bundle for a whole year. If you are an existing customer, then you can avail of exclusive upgrade offers on Sky Sports and Cinema.

To celebrate this fantastic new offer, you could win a Panasonic Smart Ultra HD 50" TV. Simply visit the Membership Plus website for more details and to enter, but hurry as this competition closes on 28 September 2017.



Save up to 30% with Sky Ireland and Membership Plus

Enjoy Sky TV with Sky Q where you can watch all your favourite shows on demand. Record three shows and watch a fourth and store up to 500 hours of TV. Join today and get an exclusive 30% off any TV bundle.



For more details, go to www.membershipplus.ie/teachers.

Where would you like to save with Membership Plus this year?

Has a new restaurant opened near you or maybe your favourite place to go shopping isn't yet in Membership Plus? By suggesting a venue, you help Membership Plus grow in the way which benefits you the most. We will contact the suggested company and, once we secure an offer, will add it to Membership Plus.

You can submit your suggestions by logging onto the Membership Plus website and click on 'Suggest a Venue' or email suggestions@membershipplus.ie

www.membershipplus.ie/teachers

Retrospective vetting – next phase

In mid-September, the final cohort of just over 16,000 teachers on the Teaching Council register who have not previously been vetted will be requested to apply for vetting. When contacted, teachers are advised to complete the process promptly as failure to complete will have consequences for payment of salary and renewal of registration which will be reliant on teachers having applied for vetting where requested to do so.

This year so far:

- ✎ 23,739 teachers have been vetted;
- ✎ the number of teachers not vetted has reduced from 32,500 to just over 16,000.

Retrospective vetting process update

Figures from 22 August show that of 13,357 teachers issued with notices to apply for vetting:

- ✎ 12,647 have fully complied with the vetting requirement;
- ✎ 418 have not yet fully complied and are being issued with follow-up notices;
- ✎ 280 retirees/no longer teaching members have been removed voluntarily from the register;
- ✎ 12 have been removed for non-compliance.

INTO activist honoured in District 13



Tim O'Sullivan, Runaí of District XIII, makes a presentation to Denis O'Sullivan at the end of his two year term as cathaoirleach of District 13 to mark his contribution to the INTO over many years.

Retirements

Pictures from branch and district functions to honour retiring members



Roscommon
Marie Spelman, Knockroghery NS, who received a presentation on the occasion of her retirement from outgoing branch chairperson Godagh McNamara and Tommy Grealley, District 6 CEC Representative.

Pictured right is Marguerite Fitzmaurice, Athleague NS, on the occasion of her retirement. The presentation was made by Sandra Crean, incoming branch chairperson and Tommy Grealley, District 6 CEC Representative.



Kilkenny City
Members of the Kilkenny City Branch of INTO pictured with branch officers at a retirement dinner in the Newpark Hotel. From left: Marie Manning, Chairperson; Rose Condon, Bunscoil McAuley Rice, Callan; Emmet Huston, Kilkenny Model School; Joe McKeown, CEC Representative; Larry Brown, Kilkenny CBS; Kathleen Hogan, St John Of God NS, Kilkenny; and Liz Davin-Read, Organiser. Photo: Tom Brett.



Enniscorthy

Back row (left to right): Joe McKeown, CEC Representative, District 10; Patricia Davis; Loraine Rosler; Etta Cowman and John Brennan, Branch Secretary. Front row (left to right): Mark Kelly, Branch Organiser; Ann Bernie; Maria Clifford and Freida O'Shaughnessy.



Mitchelstown

Members of Mitchelstown INTO with retiring member Cailt Frewen at a recent function held to mark Cailt's retirement. Also in photo is John Boyle, INTO President and Carmel Hume, CEC Representative.

(INTO advice and tips for members)

5 ways for home buyers to save a deposit

Thinking about buying your first home? The first hurdle you will meet is saving for a deposit. This may seem overwhelming, but it's not impossible if you reign in your spending and save regularly. The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) has some tips to help you get on the property ladder:

SORT OUT YOUR BUDGET

First, figure out where your money is going. Use the CCPC's budget planner at www.ccpc.ie to keep track of your income and expenses over a month. Remember to include day-to-day expenses like coffees, lunches or the cinema. This will give you a clear view of your income and expenses and what you have left to save.

Once you've sorted out your budget, you'll be able to see where you can cut back or make changes. For example, don't be afraid to switch electricity or gas companies if you could save by going elsewhere.

Saving shouldn't stop at your energy provider; make sure you're getting the best deal for TV, internet and phone contracts. Comparing options with different companies can take a bit of effort, but can pay off big time!

BREAK OUT YOUR LUNCHBOX

Do you buy your lunch each day? Take a few minutes extra to prepare a lunch at home. As well as being healthier, by swapping your take-out coffee and sandwich for homemade food and drink each day, you could save a couple of thousand euro each year!

Getting into the habit of planning out your meals for the week will help you avoid any unnecessary food waste or costs. Buying only what you need can really help you save on your grocery bills. Watch out for offers and buy in bulk if it's better value, and remember – never shop when you're hungry!



1

OPEN A SAVINGS ACCOUNT

The next thing to do is open a savings account. Take a look at the CCPC's regular savings account comparison to compare interest rates

and see which account works best for you. Also consider

going for one with a notice period. This means you have to give,

for example, 14 days' notice if you want to access the money – helping you avoid the temptation to splurge instead of save!

Pay yourself first! Once you open your savings account, set up a standing order that goes from your current account on payday. That way, the money is transferred straight into your savings before you have time to spend it!

ENTERTAIN ON A BUDGET

Instead of going out for a meal or getting a takeaway, why not cook a nice dinner at home? Instead of going to the cinema, you could watch a film on TV or online. Or how about having friends over for a games night, or starting a book club? These are all fun, low-cost activities. If you do decide to treat yourself to a meal out, go for early-bird and mid-week deals. It can be hard, but resist the 'FOMO' (fear of missing out)! Prioritise the events you really want to go to and don't be afraid to say no to ones you aren't that bothered about.

SAVE ON YOUR COMMUTE

Do you drive to work every day? Take a look at what public transport options are available – the bus or train can often be cheaper than the cost of running your car on a daily basis. If you do get the bus or train you should definitely check out the

Travel Pass Scheme (Taxsaver Commuter

Scheme). It allows you buy an annual travel pass at a reduced rate with the money being deducted directly from your gross salary. Application forms are usually available for teachers in September and October each year on www.education.ie – Travel Pass. The closing date for receipt of applications is usually the first working day of November.

Better again, walk or cycle to work if possible. If this isn't an option for you, maybe some of your colleagues would be willing to carpool. It's a great way to share costs, and banking the difference will help you reach your savings target. If you're planning on cycling, check out the the Cycle-to-Work scheme, which you can use to buy a bike tax-free. See DES Circular 0039/2014 for more information.

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For more information to help you get on the property ladder visit the CCPC's website www.ccpc.ie

What's what and where to

A quick guide for new teachers

Join INTO

Joining the INTO means you are part of Ireland's largest and longest-established teachers' union, representing over 40,000 teachers across the island. Visit join.into.ie – applying to join the INTO should take you no more than 10 minutes.

If you have any queries regarding membership please email rbowes@into.ie or ccunningham@into.ie

Get involved

Ending pay inequality for new entrant teachers is a priority for the INTO.

Compared with where the inequalities started out, we have made significant progress, but more is needed.

It continues to be our number one demand of the present government.

Advice, support and legal backing

Handling thousands of queries and requests for support, the INTO deals with the Department of Education and Skills, the Teaching Council and Management, providing legal advice/support as necessary.

The INTO has a strong reputation for representing members and has secured agreements about handling complaints, combating bullying and promoting positive workplaces – plus, for NQTs, an easing of probation conditions.



The INTO has published an information booklet to assist new members in their first year of teaching.

A copy can be found in your new member's pack which is posted to members after they join INTO.

Check the INTO online calendar on our website for branch meetings and other INTO events and conferences.

Salary

Information on your salary is available at www.into.ie/ROI

See page 23 of this InTouch for information on induction/ Droichead

Interested in a training course?

Visit the INTO Learning section of www.into.ie/ROI for information on courses.

For queries in relation to:

Teaching Council registration: website: www.teachingcouncil.ie or email info@teachingcouncil.ie

Induction: website: www.teacherinduction.ie or email info@teacherinduction.ie

Probation: email probation@lec.ie and include your Teaching Council number in your email.

Droichead: website: www.teachingcouncil.ie or email info@teachingcouncil.ie

Have a question? Need information?

- ✎ Check out the INTO website at www.into.ie/ROI
- ✎ Talk to your staff representative
- ✎ Subscribe to the INTO newsletter at into.newsweaver.ie
- ✎ Follow INTO on social media
- ✎ Email: info@into.ie
- ✎ Tel: 01 8047700 or 1850 708 708
- ✎ Contact your district representative (contact details in your member's diary)

find information...

Seeking substitute work?

Register on INTO SubSearch at subsearch.into.ie INTO Subsearch helps teachers find substitute work. You can register your profile and availability on the site. The INTO is committed to supporting and facilitating opportunities for teachers and, in particular, teachers struggling to gain valuable experience in the classroom which will ultimately increase their chances of full-time employment.



Teacher contracts

Make sure you receive written information on the terms and conditions of your job.

Permanent posts

When a teacher accepts a permanent appointment in a primary school, the teacher thereby enters a contract with her/his future employer, the board of management of the school concerned. A letter of appointment and/or acceptance of the post may form part of this contract.

The contract is confirmed by the signing of a Form of Agreement. Before signing such a form a teacher should read it and note its terms. The teacher should be given a signed copy of the form.

If any dispute arises concerning the terms of the contract during a teacher's career, s/he should immediately contact their CEC district representative or INTO Head Office.

Fixed-term (temporary) teachers

In many cases, boards of management require fixed-term teachers to sign contracts if the board proposes to employ the teacher for one year or longer. Fixed-term teachers who have any reservations about signing a contract should immediately contact INTO Head Office or their local district representative.

Contract of indefinite duration

When a fixed-term employee is employed by his/her employer on two or more continuous fixed-term contracts and the aggregate duration of an employee's continuous fixed-term contracts exceeds four years, that employee shall be deemed to be employed under a contract of indefinite duration (CID). To gain a CID the teacher must have been employed by the same employer for over two years. For details of all the terms and conditions related to CIDs see Circular 0023/2015.

Looking for accommodation?

According to the property website Daft.ie, rents are now rising everywhere across the country especially in Dublin where rents are up more than 12 per cent. In the capital, rents are now more than 18 per cent (€260 a month) above 2008 levels. In Galway, rents are more than 21 per cent above 2008 levels.

One INTO member has set up a Facebook page as a forum for NQTs/teachers looking for accommodation and/or roommates for 2017/2018. The page does not verify or visit properties but simply suggests links that may be of help to fellow teachers.

It's a closed group with over 1,700 members and can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/246099009116389/>

Have a problem?

The INTO is here to advise and support members in any way we can. The Members' Queryline operates from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Urgent queries only are taken on Fridays.

Urgent queries are defined as allegations of child abuse, immediate threat of suspension and/or dismissal of a teacher, assault on a teacher or a bereavement.

Have your voice heard

The INTO, from the ground up, organises on democratic principles. Annual Congress is the governing body. The INTO ballots members on major decisions, holds elections to key roles and runs a range of consultative events: e.g. Youth Conference, Principals/Deputy Principals' Conference, Equality Conference and Education Conference.

Common abbreviations and acronyms

BOM = Board of management
CEC = Central Executive Committee (INTO)
DES = Department of Education & Skills
CID = Contract of indefinite duration
CPD = Continuing professional development
NQT = Newly qualified teacher
PTR = Pupil/teacher ratio
S&S = Supervision and substitution
Sub = Substitute teacher

Two ways with ... Quinoa

Each month Louise Lennox and Aisling Larkin from Foodoppi.com are at hand to help give teachers some new inspiration for lunch with delicious and nutritious recipe ideas.

Quinoa (pronounced KEEN-wah) is not actually a grain, but a pseudo-cereal, a seed that is prepared and consumed like a grain.

However, quinoa is higher in nutrients than most grains. Quinoa has a crunchy texture and nutty flavour. It is also gluten-free, so it can be enjoyed by individuals who are sensitive to gluten or wheat.

Why eat quinoa?

- 1 Protein: It contains all nine essential amino acids making it a complete protein.
- 2 Manganese: which helps metabolism, growth and keeps bones strong.
- 3 Niacin: improves immune system function.
- 4 Iron: An essential mineral that performs many important functions in the body,

such as transporting oxygen in red blood cells.

- 5 Fibre: Naturally high in dietary fibre, quinoa is a slowly digested carbohydrate, making it a good low-GI option. It also helps to lower and control high cholesterol. Helps with weight loss, by increasing the feeling of fullness, as well as improving gut health.

Quinoa granola crunch

Ingredients

- 50g quinoa
- 50g porridge oats
- 50g spelt puffs – unsweetened (available in health food shops)
- 100g pecans – chopped
- 100g sunflower seeds
- 4 tablespoons chia seeds
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons sunflower oil
- 1 egg white
- 100g dried figs – chopped

Preheat oven to 160°C/Gas 3

Method

- 1 In a bowl mix together all the dry ingredients except the figs. Pour the sunflower oil and honey over the ingredients. Lightly beat the egg white until frothy and then add into the mixture. Mix until all the ingredients are well coated.
- 2 Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Pour the mixture into the tray and spread out evenly. Bake for 30-40 minutes until golden brown. Stir the mixture every 10 minutes while baking to ensure it's evenly baked.
- 3 Remove from the oven then add in the chopped figs, allow to cool completely and then pour into an airtight container.
- 4 Serve with yoghurt and fresh fruit.



Roasted sweet potato and quinoa salad

Ingredients

- 4 medium sweet potatoes
- 2 red onions
- 1 clove garlic
- 2 tablespoons sunflower oil
- 50g feta cheese
- 50g quinoa

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 5

Method

- 1 Peel and crush the garlic, add into the bowl with the oil and seasoning. Toss everything together.
- 2 Cook the quinoa in boiling hot water by following the instructions on the packet. Once cooked, rinse under cold water.
- 3 Once the sweet potato is cooked remove from the oven. Allow to cool. Crumble the feta cheese. Mix everything together in a large container.

Personalise your salad

- Add a punch of protein – grilled chicken or fish.
- Stretch it out – chop courgettes and peppers to roast together.
- Dress it up – sprinkle with dried cranberries.
- More texture – Throw in a handful of roasted hazelnuts.
- Need your five a day – add in baby spinach leaves, blanched green beans and broccoli florets.



Foodoppi is a creative educational platform which takes an extraordinary approach to food and STEM education that has proven to be an effective way to foster positive relationships with food while exciting children about learning and gaining STEM skills.

AISLING LARKIN has a degree in

Education from Trinity, spent 10 years working in a DEIS school in inner city Dublin, has a first class M.Sc in Food Product Design and Culinary Innovation and set up Ireland's premier children's cookery school at the Cliff at Lyons a few years ago.

Foodoppi

LOUISE LENNOX is a top chef and food broadcaster on TV and radio here in Ireland and has a background in nutrition and children's food media production. Aisling and Louise joined forces a few years ago and created Foodoppi.

Buying a new car?

Comhar Linn Car Loan ...



Over the past three years or so many customers have been opting to finance the purchase of a new car with a personal contract plan (PCP). PCPs are popular because of low interest rates and low monthly repayments but there are significant costly pitfalls for customers when a PCP matures after 36, 48 or 60 months.

A key point of a PCP is for the car to retain the guaranteed minimum future value (GMFV) agreed at the outset by the dealership with the customer when the three to five year PCP ends.

A PCP requires the payment of a deposit of 10% to 30% of the value of the car and agreed monthly repayments for three to five years, with a final lumpsum payment due at the end of the term. It is the cost of the final payment and the

total amount of interest paid that is critical.

A number of factors can significantly reduce the GMFV. Higher than agreed mileage over the life of the PCP, excessive wear and tear and crash damage repairs costing greater than 66% of the original value of the car will all lead to a reduction in the GMFV.

At the end of a PCP agreement the customer has a number of choices. S/he can buy the car for the GMFV agreed at the start, this could be more than the market value of the car because of factors outlined above and this cost may have to be re-financed. S/he can hand the keys back and walk away or s/he can exchange the car for a new model, to be financed with a new PCP which will require a deposit. If the market value is lower than

GMFV the customer will have to generate the deposit from his own resources.

By using a PCP the customer will not own the car unless s/he chooses to buy it out at the end of the term. As a lot of the repayments are deferred, the interest costs may be low initially, but the total ends up being high over the full length of the agreement, especially if the GMFV has to be re-financed.

By choosing a Comhar Linn INTO Credit Union car loan (6.75% APR) the member, will own the car from day one, will know what the interest costs will be over the term, will have the freedom to sell the car at a time of their choosing, will have no balloon payment at the end of the agreement, will have no mileage restrictions and will have no penalties if they choose to repay the loan early.

Celebrate Tree Day on 5 October

The Tree Council of Ireland is calling on primary schools across Ireland to get involved in Tree Day on Thursday, 5 October. The aim of Tree Day is to encourage primary school children to get outside to enjoy all that our natural environment has to offer. The theme this year is 'Our Planet, Our Choice – Ár bPláinéid, Ár Rogha' to convey that we are all responsible for our environment.

Each year a different native tree is highlighted on Tree Day and this year the spotlight is on the Oak tree. The Oak tree is a deciduous tree native to Ireland of which there are two types found here, the Sessile Oak and the Pedunculate Oak.

To celebrate Tree Day, over 1,000 Oak tree saplings will be made available



through www.treeday.ie, for primary school children to plant on their school grounds. If your school would prefer a smaller tree, the Alder is also available. Offer available while stocks last. T&Cs apply.

For more information see ad on page 40 of this *InTouch*.



Your Child in the Primary School

Free ebook for parents



First published in 1995 and updated many times since, *Your Child in the Primary School – Tips for Parents* has proved an outstanding success with parents and teachers. It offers advice on how to prepare young children for their first days and months at school and can be downloaded free from www.into.ie/ROI. Schools are invited to download and add the publication to their school websites if they so wish. Available in English, Irish, Spanish and French.

Family leave provision for teachers

The INTO Equality Committee, as part of its work on the statutory grounds of family status, marital status and gender, has developed this brief guide to the categories of leave available to teachers with family/caring responsibilities. The information on the table overleaf is correct at time of print (September 2017) but may need to be checked for possible updates.

Notes

1. Unpaid leave categories generally, and certain types of paid leave, require board of management and Department of Education and Skills permission/approval. Although a teacher will be off the payroll for the unpaid period, authorised unpaid leave is not a break in service and a teacher resumes work on the same conditions as applied when taking leave.
2. The definition of 'immediate family' is not consistent across applicable leave categories; you are advised to check in the appropriate circular or on the INTO website.

Family illness leave may be availed of in respect of a person who resides with you 'in a relationship of domestic dependency'.

3. While intended as a summary of leave entitlements related to certain grounds in equality legislation, this information sheet does not purport to be an authoritative statement on such leave; you are advised to consult the relevant circular(s) for further information.
4. A general listing of categories of teacher absences and associated matters is contained in the DES

publication *Terms and Conditions of Employment for Registered Teachers in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools* (Edition 2) on www.education.ie

Paternity leave

From September 2016, teachers are entitled to paternity leave of a period of two consecutive weeks' paid leave within six months of the birth/adoption of a child.

Eligible teachers who pay Class A PRSI should apply for Paternity Benefit from the Department of Social Protection. For more information see www.welfare.ie.

Check leave entitlement in seconds

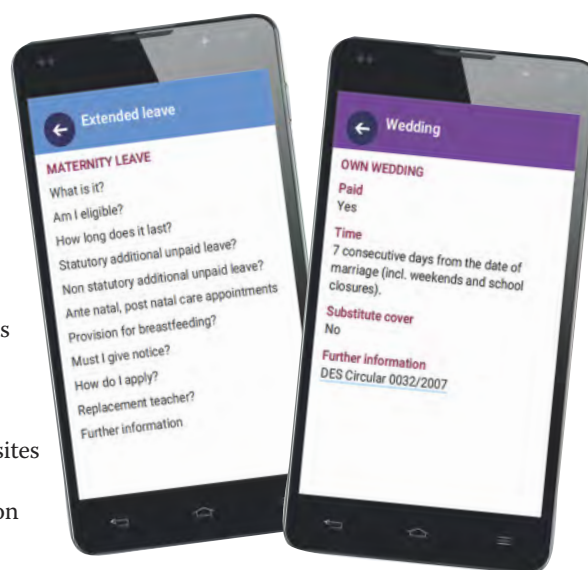
Download the INTO guide to teachers' leave app



INTO members can check entitlement to leave in seconds through the INTO guide to teachers' leave app. The app contains information on brief absences, extended leave and sick leave. It outlines whether or not the leave is paid or unpaid, whether substitute cover is allowed, how to apply for leave, and much more.

Download from iTunes and Google Play. Search for 'INTO guide to teachers leave', ensuring software on iPhones or Android devices is up-to-date before downloading.

Links to relevant circulars and websites are contained in the app allowing members to get additional information on leave.



Family leave provision for teachers

Family Leave	Purpose	Paid	Maximum period	Sub cover	Full details
Family Illness (including Force Majeure)	Urgent tending to a family member who is ill, including accompanying to hospital	Yes	5 school days in a school year (for 'immediate' family). 3 school days for near relative	Yes, no sub cover for first day	Circular 32/07 – Section 1 and Appendix A
Family Bereavement	Related to bereavement and/or attendance at ceremonies	Yes	5 consecutive days or 3 consecutive days (5 days for 'immediate' family)	Yes	Circular 32/07 – Section 1 and Appendix A
Marriage Leave	Teacher's own wedding and days following (if school due to be open)	Yes	7 consecutive days (from date of marriage)	No	Circular 32/07 – Section 3
Graduation/Commissioning Reception/Other's Marriage Leave	Immediate family member graduating, entering Garda/Defence Forces, entering religious order, near relative marrying	Yes	1 school day	No	Circular 32/07 – Section 3
Court Leave – Family Law	Court proceedings re legal separation	Yes	1 school day	No	Circular 32/07 – Section 3
Maternity Leave	Birth and early care	Yes	26 consecutive weeks (and option of additional unpaid leave)	Yes	*Chapter 4 – Terms and Conditions of Employment
Adoptive Leave	To allow adopting teacher a period with placement of adopted child	Yes	24 consecutive weeks (and option of additional unpaid leave)	Yes	*Chapter 6 – Terms and Conditions of Employment
Paternity Leave	Caring responsibilities soon after the birth or placement of a child	Yes	2 consecutive weeks within 6 months of birth/placement	Yes	*Chapter 5 – Terms and Conditions of Employment
Parental Leave	Care of children under 13	No	18 weeks per child	Yes	*Chapter 7 – Terms and Conditions of Employment
Other Leave related to Parenthood	Health and safety leave during pregnancy, antenatal classes, time for breast-feeding etc	Yes	Variable – e.g. max 1 hour per day (within 26 weeks of birth) for breast-feeding	Generally yes	Circulars 32/07 and *Chapter 4 covers limited breast-feeding provisions
Carer's Leave	Care for person medically certified as in need of care	No	104 weeks (in respect of 1 'relevant person')	Yes	Chapter 10*, Carer's Leave Act 2001 amended by Social Welfare & Pensions Act 2006 (Schedule 9), Circular 32/07 – Section 2.
Job-Sharing	Work flexibility for family or other reasons	Half Pay	Unspecified	Fixed-term teacher appointed	*Chapter 9 – Terms and Conditions of Employment
Extra Personal Vacation	Family or other reasons	Yes	5 school days, but linked to length of approved course attended	No	Circular 32/07 – Section 3
Career Break	Break from normal duties for purpose of caring, study, travel etc.	No	10 school years, max of 5 years consecutively	Fixed-term teacher appointed	*Chapter 8 – Terms and Conditions of Employment
Unpaid Leave	Compelling obligation requiring leave	No	10 school days in one school year	Yes	*Chapter 11 – Terms and Conditions of Employment

NB: Approval may also be given for other brief absences. See DES website for info on revised sick leave arrangements from 1/9/14. More

information on sick leave and brief absences at www.into.ie and on INTO's Leave app. *For relevant chapters refer to DES publication *Terms and*

Conditions of Employment for Registered Teachers in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools (Edition 2) on www.education.ie



Homelessness

Last month, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) published a report on *Homeless Persons in Ireland*. The report shows that on Census night, 4 April 2016, 6,906 persons were either sleeping rough or in accommodation designated for the homeless. Of these, 4,018 were male and 2,888 were female.

The report looked at the homeless population across a range of variables including: age, sex, marital status, economic status and nationality.

Homeless persons had a younger average age than the general population.

The average age of the homeless population was 31 years compared with 37 years for the general population. Of 6,906 homeless persons, 1,846 were aged 0-17 years, with 1,594 being children in family units. A further 413 persons (6%) were aged 60 and over.

Homeless persons by five year age-group

Age-group	Male	Female	Total
0-4	379	386	765
5-9	292	273	565
10-14	190	174	364

Homeless families

There were 896 families among the homeless population, representing 2,968 persons, and accounting for 43% of all homeless persons. There were 67 couples without children, 326 families with one child, 261 families with two children and 131 families with three children. A further 111 families

had four or more children. There were 262 couples with children and 567 one-parent families. Female parents accounted for 96% of all one-parent families.

There were 1,846 young persons aged 0-17 years of which 1,594 were children in family units.

Homeless less likely to have (upper) educational qualifications

In relation to level of education, 1,606 homeless persons (38%) did not have an educational qualification above lower secondary level compared with 27% of the general population. There were 955 people who indicated that they were educated to at least upper secondary level and 422 were educated to third level.

Homelessness by region

The table below shows the distribution of homeless persons by region based on the Regional Homeless Action Plans.

Region	Male	Female	Total
Dublin	2,802	2,207	5,009
South West	285	186	471
Mid West	265	131	396
South East	203	120	323
Mid East	163	68	231
West	119	70	189
North East	100	53	153
Midland	50	44	94
North West	31	9	40
Total	4,018	2,888	6,906

Family homelessness is an education crisis

FOCUS IRELAND is leading a campaign calling on the DES to provide the necessary guidance, training and resources to ensure that children experiencing homelessness do not also suffer educational disadvantage.

Supporting Focus Ireland's campaign, INTO president John Boyle said primary teachers see daily the challenges faced by children and families experiencing homelessness. "The INTO supports Focus Ireland's call for guidance and resources to assist schools to ensure that the effects of homelessness on education and learning are minimised."

Based on its own experience and Census data, Focus Ireland has estimated that almost 3,000 children are now living in emergency homeless accommodation with their parents and around 1,200 of them attend national schools while around 600 are in secondary education.

International evidence shows that schoolchildren who are homeless struggle to do well in school and the experience can undermine their entire education – and their chances of fulfilling their potential. Without an adequate response from the DES, this short-term housing problem could have generation-long consequences.

Family homelessness will only be truly resolved when we have enough affordable housing but, during the years it will take to build them, children need support to overcome the additional problems that homelessness puts in their path. Teachers in the classroom are struggling to help these children cope and many schools are working hard to relieve the stress and provide support. However, three years into the family homeless crisis, the DES itself remains silent. There has been no support for hard pressed teachers, no advice, no guidance and certainly no additional resources.

The forthcoming budget presents an opportunity for the DES to take up its responsibility.

Details of how you can support this campaign are on www.into.ie

HOMELESS PEOPLE IN IRELAND



Source: Central Statistics Office. Persons in Long Term Accommodation (LTA) are not included in this report. Census 2016 recorded 1,772 individuals in LTAs on Census Night. The full report is available on the CSO website at www.cso.ie/en/census/

New universal childcare subsidy for all parents

From 21 August, you can apply through your registered childcare provider for a universal subsidy of up to €1,040 to be deducted from your annual childcare fees.

Please be warned, however, that not all providers have signed up so it is best to check with your provider ahead of the start date.

For full details see this dedicated website affordablechildcare.ie, which includes a list of registered childcare providers and a list of local childcare committees that you can contact if you need to speak to someone.

Special education teaching allocation appeals

The special education teaching allocation appeals process referenced in NCSE 03/2017 concluded last month.

A total of 558 appeals were received, 487 appeals from primary schools and 71 appeals from post-primary schools. 294 (or 52.7%) of the schools appealed one component of their allocation. 264 schools appealed two or more components of their allocation.

As a result 131 schools, or 23.4% of the 558 appellant schools, where there was a significant increase in year on year enrolments or where it appeared that the school's social context had changed considerably, received an increase in their original allocation.

Appeal decision letters issued to schools in August.

Wear Red Day to show racism the red card

Schools are invited to make a stand against racism on 'Wear Red Day', Friday 24 November in support of Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC). Funds raised will contribute to the development of new education resources, which will be freely available to teachers in primary and secondary schools. Register to receive an organisers pack which includes stickers, red cards, leaflets, posters and more.

Teachers are also invited to register to participate in the SRTRC Creative Competition. Education materials to help pupils learn about the topic will be sent to schools that register. The competition challenges participants to use written, visual or audio-visual means to produce a message relating to the themes of SRTRC. Navan Educate Together were the overall winners of the competition last year and were presented with their award by Ireland coach Roy Keane. The deadline for



submission of entries is Friday, 30 March 2018.

To support schools to promote anti-racism education and a culture of inclusion SRTRC is available to deliver workshops for pupils, training for teachers and make available resources, such as an education pack, red cards, wristbands. If organising

an intercultural day, SRTRC's mascot, Jeff the Ref, would love to attend too.

To participate in Wear Red Day see www.theredcard.ie/wear-red-day. To register for the creative competition see www.theredcard.ie/competition. To view previous entries to the competition see www.youtube.com/theredcardire.

Show Racism the Red Card awards 2016. Pictured from left: Laya Susansabu, Andrew Tran, David Stanton TD, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, Chantelle Doyle, Roy Keane, Huimi Roy.

Photo: Barry Cronin/
www.barrycronin.com

SCHOOL COSTS

Parents bearing brunt of underfunded education system

In August, Barnardos published School Costs Survey 2017 which found, once more, that parents are bearing the brunt of an underfunded education system. There remains an expectation that parents will prop up the educational system by having to buy essentials required for their children to complete the curriculum like books, classroom resources and stationery.

The survey, completed by over 1,800 parents, found:

- School costs mean 45% of parents had

to forgo other bills or cut back on essentials.

- Parents of primary school pupils pay on average between €50 and €100 on books.
- Generic school uniforms are more common at primary level than secondary level. Parents spend on average €95 on school specific uniforms at primary level.
- Fewer parents are being asked to pay a voluntary contribution this year.

June Tinsley, Head of Advocacy, Barnardos, stated; "Books should be provided free to

students... The State should be providing all that is needed in order for a school to function successfully instead of making the school go to the parents."

Key recommendations

Barnardos recommended that the government uphold a child's constitutional right to free primary education by investing an extra €102.2m annually to make it a reality for all children. More information at www.barnardos.ie/SchoolCosts17

Ag tabhairt faoin gCáilíocht

Undertaking the Irish Language Requirement

An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge

Bíonn ar bhunmhúinteoirí a fhaigheann a gcuid oiliúna lasmuigh den Stát an Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge a bhaint amach le lán-aitheantas a fháil mar bhunmhúinteoirí sa tír seo.

The Cáilíocht sa Ghaeilge (Irish Language Requirement) provides an opportunity for teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualification outside of the State and who have an identified curriculum shortfall in Irish, to make good that shortfall.

Rogha

Tá dhá bhealach ann chun an Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge a bhaint amach. Dá bhrí sin, tá rogha ag iarrthóirí.

Traditionally, primary teachers wishing to fulfil the Irish Language Requirement (an Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge) undertook the Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (SCG – aptitude tests) as a means of acquiring the necessary qualification. Candidates now have the option of fulfilling the Irish Language Requirement by undertaking Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (OCG – adaptation period and assessments).

Difríochtaí idir an SCG agus OCG

Tá difríochtaí tábhachtacha idir an SCG agus OCG.

There are important differences between the SCG and OCG. In this regard, prospective applicants are advised to consult carefully, the information and guidance available at the website www.ilrweb.ie. In OCG the candidate's competency to teach Irish in a mainstream class setting is assessed in the classroom only and the candidate's professional competency in Irish is assessed at the end of the adaptation period through assessments. Also in OCG, candidates must complete a minimum of 120 school days of teaching as a mainstream class teacher in one or more schools. That requirement does not apply to the SCG. The differences between SCG and OCG can be determining factors for many in deciding which option or route is more appropriate for them. A comparison of the main aspects of both the SCG and OCG is presented on this page.

An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge		
	SCG	OCG
	An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (Aptitude Tests)	Oiriúnú le hAghaidh sa Ghaeilge (Adaptation Period and Assessments)
Modules to be achieved	Four independent examination modules (candidates may take all modules or any combination of modules in any school year)	Four independent assessment modules (candidates may take all modules or any combination of modules in any school year)
Modúl 1:	1. Páipéar 1 (General Language examination includes practical element of teaching of Irish, examined in the classroom)	1. Triail Scríofa (General Language Assessment)
Modúl 2:	2. Páipéar 2 (Examination of selected Prose and Poetry includes practical element of Language and Culture Project, examined in the classroom)	2. Triail Chluastuisceana (Multiple Choice format)
Modúl 3:	3. Triail Chluastuisceana (Written Answer format)	3. Triail i Labhairt na Gaeilge (Picture discussion and general interview)
Modúl 4:	4. Scrúdú i Labhairt na Gaeilge (Reading of passage and general interview)	4. Múineadh na Gaeilge (assessed in a classroom)
Pass Mark	40% i ngach modúl	40% i ngach modúl
School Visit	One school visit during mid Jan/Feb for the examination of practical elements of Páipéar 1 and/or Páipéar 2	Two school visits during mid Jan/Feb for the Assessment of Múineadh na Gaeilge
Classroom requirements	Candidates require access to a mainstream class in order to undertake the practical elements of Páipéar 1 and Páipéar 2	Candidates must be working in mainstream class teacher capacity. A candidate must satisfy a Specific Adaptation Period Practice Requirement of a minimum of 120 school days, in each of which Irish is taught as a mainstream class subject
Gaeltacht Placement	Candidates must attend a recognised SCG Gaeltacht course. It is recommended that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht course placement before presenting for the Scrúdú i Labhairt na Gaeilge	Candidates must attend a recognised OCG Gaeltacht course. It is recommended that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht course placement before presenting for the Triail i Labhairt na Gaeilge
Candidates are advised to consult both the SCG Guide and OCG Guide carefully at www.ilrweb.ie before making a decision on which option (SCG or OCG) to choose.		

sa Ghaeilge



Ag clárú don scrúdú

Candidates wishing to undertake the SCG examinations or OCG assessments during the academic year must register with the Cáilíocht sa Ghaeilge office in the Marino Institute of Education by 31 October, 2017 (registration forms are available on www.ilrweb.ie). Early registration is advised. Registration allows a candidate to enter for the examination, provides access to materials and elements of online learning and will also allow a candidate to provide school details which the Cáilíocht sa Ghaeilge office will require in order to co-ordinate the school-based practical aspects.

Cúrsaí

Candidates, when registering, may also indicate their interest in undertaking an optional face-to-face course. Subject to sufficient demand, courses for the SCG/OCG are provided, where possible, through the Education Centre network. Course materials have been designed by Rannóg na Gaeilge, Marino Institute of Education, and tutors have received training from Rannóg na Gaeilge, Marino. Where possible, it is recommended that candidates undertake a suitable course. Courses also offer regular and consistent contact with tutors and other candidates. Fees for these courses are payable directly to the education centre.

An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge – the Irish Language Requirement

Líon na nIarrthóirí a bhain pas amach um Cháisc 2017

Candidates who obtained a pass Easter 2017

An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (SCG)

Páipéar 1	85 (84%)
Páipéar 2	84 (87%)
An Triail Chluastuisceana	72 (84%)
An Scrúdú i Labhairt na Gaeilge	72 (82%)

Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (OCG)

Múineadh na Gaeilge	55 (96%)
An Triail Scríofa	47 (87%)
An Triail Chluastuisceana	47(100%)
An Triail i Labhairt na Gaeilge	39 (75%)

Féilire an SCG/OCG – 2017/2018

September –October	Registration for the Irish Language Requirement with An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge Office, Marino Institute of Education. Forms available www.ilrweb.ie
31 October	An Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge registration deadline
Oct/Nov/Dec	Term 1 of SCG-OCG courses in Education Centres (approx. 10 weeks, courses are optional and subject to sufficient demand)
15 Jan-09 Feb	Practical Element(s) – Classroom Assessment
Jan/Feb/Mar	Term 2 of SCG/OCG courses in Education Centres (approximately 10 weeks, courses are optional and subject to sufficient demand)
03, 04, 05 April	SCG Examinations and OCG Assessments take place at Marino Institute of Education
23 and 24 August	SCG Repeat Examinations and OCG Repeat Assessments take place at Marino Institute of Education

An Ghaeilge – níos mó ná scrúdú i gceist

- ✳ Bí dearfach i gcónaí i leith na Gaeilge.
- ✳ Bí oscailte don Ghaeilge. Cuir fáilte roimpi agus labhair í mar theanga i do scoil agus le do chairde.
- ✳ Roghnaigh féachaint ar TG4 anois agus arís. Faigh Raidió na Gaeltachta agus éist leis ag am nuachta.
- ✳ Téigh go dtí siopa leabhar agus ceannaigh leabhar Gaeilge a thaitneodh leat.
- ✳ Bí ag cur le do stór focal i gcónaí. Ná bíodh eagla ort ceist a chur ar chara leat.
- ✳ Faigh Gaeilge ar an idirlíon. Léigh an nuacht ar www.tuairisc.ie. Úsáid

- www.tearma.ie agus www.foclóir.ie chun an Ghaeilge ar fhocail a fháil.
- ✳ Cuir téacs nó ríomhphost chuig do chara i nGaeilge.
- ✳ Roghnaigh cártaí Gaeilge uaireanta.
- ✳ Bí fiosrach faoin nGaeilge i do thimpeallacht. An bhfuil a fhios agat céard as a dtagann an logainm sin?
- ✳ Sa Ghaeltacht, labhair Gaeilge le do chairde, le do theagascóir, le bean is fear an tí.
- ✳ Ní stopann tú riamh den fhoghlaím. Bí i gcónaí ag iarraidh barr feabhais a chur ar do Ghaeilge.
- ✳ Bíodh an Ghaeilge mar chompánach agat i do shaol i gcónaí.

Eolas

Tuilleadh eolais faoin SCG agus OCG:

- ✳ Teil: 01 8535134
- ✳ Ríomhphost: scginfo@mie.ie agus ocginfo@mie.ie
- ✳ Gréasán: www.ilrweb.ie

Peadar Mac Giolla Bhríghde, Aodán Mac Suibhne agus Marie Whelton (Institiúid Oideachais Marino)



An Associated College of The University of Dublin, Trinity College

INTO/GAA Mini Sevens are back!

Joe Canning's Galway v Tipperary All-Ireland hurling semi-final, was a fitting dénouement to a game that will live long in the memory of all who were fortunate to witness it. For 40 boys and girls who had lined out in the INTO GAA Mini Sevens during the halftime interval, it was a magical end to an unforgettable day.

From the moment that they arrived in the Barbara Ward Centre at 11a.m. that morning, these lucky children discovered what it is like to be part of the big match occasion. All details were planned with precision by Gerry O'Meara, National Coordinator of the INTO Mini Sevens and principal of Scoil Treasa in Firhouse, Dublin. INTO president John Boyle, a former chairman of Cumann na mBunscol Baile Átha Cliath, addressed the children and their parents.

At 11.30a.m., Gerry's team of helpers lead the group into Croke Park where dressing facilities were provided. The children played in the colours of the teams participating in the senior game. By 12 noon, all players were ready and it was time for team photos on the pitch with the INTO president. Uachtarán Tofa GAA, John Horan, a secondary teacher, is principal of St Vincent's CBS, Glasnevin.

At throw-in time in the minor match, Croke Park was a hive of activity as adult teams arrived in the stadium by bus and media personnel got ready for the day ahead. This all adds to the excitement and buzz among the young players. At 4:37p.m., the 40 players took the field and 'lived the dream' of playing in a packed Croke Park. Although originally seven-a-side, there are now two ten-a-side matches, played across the field, but the 'Mini Sevens' name lives on!

One of the most frequent queries received by Cumann na mBunscol is "How are players chosen to play in Croke Park?" The majority of county units organise blitzes in all four codes, football, hurling, girls' football and camogie. Some counties organise skills competitions for individual

Uachtarán
Tofa John
Horan, Gerry
O'Meara, Mini
Sevens
coordinator,
and Liam
Magee,
Cumann Na
mBunscol,
with young
whistlers at
the Mini
Sevens.



players. Teachers are advised to contact their local Cumann na mBunscol rúnaí to ensure they are aware of fixtures. Many of the stars of today made their Croke Park debut in the Mini Sevens and cherish the memory. Dublin footballer Brian Fenton, Kerry's Brian Sheehan and Keith Higgins of Mayo all have fond memories of playing in the Mini Sevens, as does Limerick camogie star Niamh Mulcahy. No doubt the 2017 crop will include many heroes of the future.

Left: John Horan, Uachtaran Tofa GAA, and John Boyle, INTO President, with Sarah Fitzgerald of Crecora NS, Co Limerick.

INTO/GAA half-time
exhibition games.
Michael Gavin, Ballybrown
PS, pictured with John
Boyle, INTO President,
Aogan Ó Frearghail, GAA
President and Catherine
Neary, President of the
Camogie Association in
Croke Park.
Michael played in the INTO/
GAA half-time exhibition
games in Croke Park on
Sunday, 13 August.



News round-up

A general meeting of Cumann na mBunscol will be held in the Croke Park Hotel on Saturday 16 September at 11a.m. All counties and provincial units are requested to send two delegates. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Among the items on the agenda are Cumann na mBunscol and social media.*

"Twitter and other social media platforms have enormous potential benefits for Cumann na mBunscol in promoting the work that goes on

throughout the country," according to Joe Lyons, national PRO. "Many counties are already very active on social media. We would like to highlight good practice and also alert teachers to potential pitfalls. Areas such as child protection are always at the forefront of our thoughts, in the classroom or on the playing fields", he said.

* Follow Cumann na mBunscol on Twitter @cnambnaisiunta



Principals' Seminar Programme

2017/2018

Practical and effective support for school leaders

The INTO is continuing its programme of principals' seminars for the 2017/18 school year.

The union is committed to providing up-to-date, practical

and relevant information and assistance. The topics, this year, will span a full range of issues from legal to conditions and terms of employment, curriculum and professional matters.

TOPICS*

- Appointment procedures.
- CIDs and contracts.
- Complaints and disciplinary procedures.
- Employment, equality and professional regulation.
- Curriculum and special education.
- Enrolment/admissions.
- Relevant legislation and case law for schools.
- Current professional challenges.
- Occupational health and sick leave.
- Salary and pension.

*Please note: Topics may vary depending on seminar.

VENUES AND DATES

Bookable from September 2017

Waterford City: The Tower Hotel – 11 October 2017

Loughrea, Co Galway: Lough Rea Hotel – 25 October 2017

Gormanstown, Co Meath: City North Hotel – 22 November 2017

Ballincollig, Co Cork: Oriel House Hotel – 28 February 2018

Bookable from January 2018

Newbridge, Co Kildare: Keadeen Hotel – 7 March 2018

Letterkenny, Co Donegal: Mt Errigal Hotel – 18 April 2018

Limerick City: Castletroy Park Hotel – 2 May 2018

Glen of the Downs, Co Wicklow: Glenview Hotel – 16 May 2018

SEMINAR BOOKING INFORMATION

- **DES authorised day release for principals to attend but, unfortunately, substitute cover is not allowed.**
- **Seminars are free – subject to a fully refundable booking deposit of €40. Those who do not attend or who do not cancel within 48 hours will not be refunded.**
- **Places allocated on a first come, first served basis.**
- **Applications online using debit/credit card. Check the INTO website for further details.**

Any further queries email: principalsseminars@into.ie

TIMETABLE

Each seminar commences at 9.30 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. There is a morning tea/coffee break and dinner at 1 p.m. approx.

Ireland's Holy Wells – county by county

Survey begins autumn 2017



In September and October this year, a national survey of well sites and traditions will be enabled through tools of the digital age. A mobile-friendly website has been created (ihwcbc.omeka.net) for the gathering of histories and oral traditions about wells.

Volunteer researchers will be capturing accounts of the prayer 'rounds' unique to each holy well site, patron saints, associated flora and fauna and cures. The website will also receive audio clips of



local pronunciations, video clips of interviews, pattern days or persons

demonstrating the rounds, and photographs of well sites, votive offerings and any associated stations.

At the project's conclusion, the website will become a publicly-accessible database donated to the National Folklore Collection.

A book will document the story of Irish wells. Any proceeds will go to charity.

To learn more please contact Dr Celeste Ray at cray@sewanee.edu or holywellscountybycounty@gmail.com

Teaching matters

Articles and opinions on primary teaching, with tips and ideas for the classroom

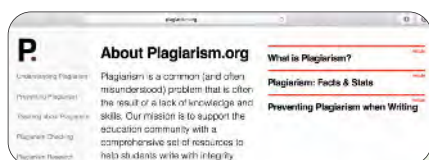
Plagiarism and copyright in a digital age

Citing sources in pupils' work is important in schools

Over the summer some 2,800 teachers participated in online courses run by PDST Technology in Education through TeacherCPD.ie. While the courses focused on areas of ICT and ePortfolios for Assessment, ICT in the primary classroom generally and other related topics, two underlying issues that are relevant here, and cross both online and face-to-face courses, are plagiarism and copyright.

Both very important concepts for children to understand and abide by. While researching, investigating, analysing and reporting are important skills to develop in the classroom, the understanding of copyright and referencing is also very important.

A simple way of explaining plagiarism and copyright to your class might be to ask them how they would feel if someone took their homework, put their own name on it and gave it to the teacher. In a similar way it is important that we use copyright free images and reference the source from where we get our information.



A more formal explanation of plagiarism is:

- Submitting someone else's work as your own.
- Copying someone's ideas, images, music or words without giving them credit.
- Not giving proper accreditation to a person's work or ideas.

In the majority of cases plagiarism can be avoided by referencing all sources used. For those that are unsure about referencing, *World Book Online* (available

via Scoilnet.ie) gives a good example of how to cite articles and material taken from the internet – where citing is provided in a number of formats at the bottom of each article.

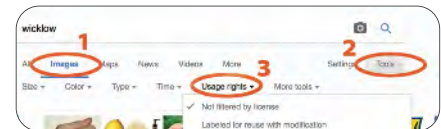
Image search

While the major search engines return images that can be useful in class, the licencing attached to an image is rarely clear. It is safe to assume that the use of images taken from the internet requires permission and the correct licences.

Digital images can be tracked to enable the copyright owners to identify if they have been used with or without the correct permissions (licences). A small number of schools in Ireland have received notification from large commercial image companies regarding copyright infringement and this has resulted in a potentially expensive oversight in some cases.

There are a number of simple ways that this can be overcome:

- You can take and use your own images.
- A search engine can be used. Within Google, for instance, if you select 'images' there is a tools button which allows you to filter results based on



usage rights attached to images. This will allow you to view images that can be used without an associated fee, but they should still be cited.

- Other websites that can be used to source images are pixabay.com, search.creativecommons.org and photosforclass.com. Should you use photosforclass.com, each image is automatically cited once downloaded.

School policies

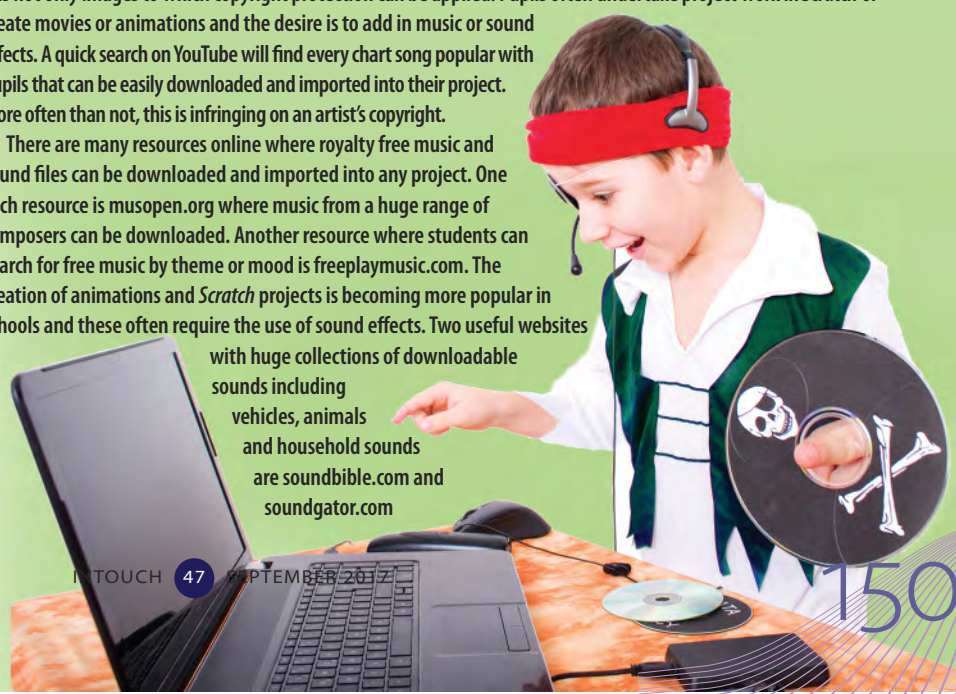
Copyright and publishing policies should be covered in your school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). The AUP is a document which covers a number of issues that can be faced online from rights, responsibility, privileges and computer use. The document is normally written by teachers with consultation with the board of management, stakeholders and parents. For more information and support in creating an AUP for your school please visit www.webwise.ie/aup-2/

Music copyright

It is not only images to which copyright protection can be applied. Pupils often undertake project work in *Scratch* or create movies or animations and the desire is to add in music or sound effects. A quick search on YouTube will find every chart song popular with pupils that can be easily downloaded and imported into their project. More often than not, this is infringing on an artist's copyright.

There are many resources online where royalty free music and sound files can be downloaded and imported into any project. One such resource is musopen.org where music from a huge range of composers can be downloaded. Another resource where students can search for free music by theme or mood is freeplaymusic.com. The creation of animations and *Scratch* projects is becoming more popular in schools and these often require the use of sound effects. Two useful websites with huge collections of downloadable sounds including vehicles, animals and household sounds are soundbible.com and soundgator.com

This article has been adapted from the 'Sourcing quality information and images for projects' article by Seán Gallagher. Compiled by Emer Ní Chéidigh, Mark Finlay and Patrick Coffey.



Remembering Thomas Ashe (1885-1917)

On 22 February 1832, the small coffin of a young boy, Michael Carey from Francis Street in Dublin, was placed in the new nine acre Prospect Cemetery in Glasnevin, on the northside of Dublin. Since then, the cemetery has grown to its present size of 124 acres containing over 1.5 million interments. Amongst them are many of the iconic figures of modern Irish history. Over the next school year *InTouch* will give you a brief history of some of them, as well as covering the art and architecture which combine to make Glasnevin a place quite unlike any other cemetery. This month's article remembers Thomas Ashe, an INTO member, whose 100th anniversary is on 25 September this year.

On 30 September 1917, the funeral cortege of Ashe left Dublin City Hall for Glasnevin Cemetery. Ashe, a veteran of the Easter Rising, had died five days earlier after being force-fed while on hunger strike in Mountjoy Prison. The enormous procession contained a wide range of nationalist organisations, but also many unions, and, according to the *Evening Herald*, "an impressive feature was the large contingent of national teachers who marched, with uncovered heads".

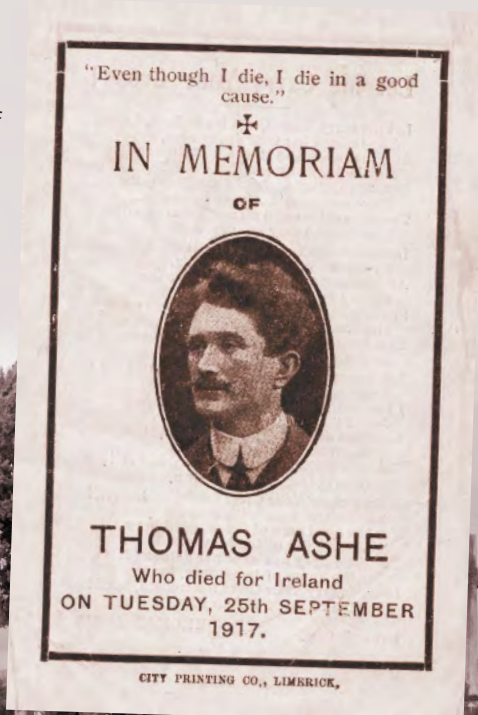
Thomas Ashe was born in Kinard, near Dingle, in 1885. This was an Irish-speaking area, and Ashe himself joined the Gaelic League while at school and later trained as a teacher. In 1908, he became master of Corduff NS near Lusk in north County Dublin. Like many young nationalist activists of his generation, Ashe was involved in a wide range of cultural and

political organisations. He was a talented piper, and was also an active member of the GAA. In 1913, he joined the Irish Volunteers and was a member of the IRB. Before the outbreak of the Easter Rising, Ashe became commandant of the fifth battalion of the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers based in Fingal and, during the Rising, he led his battalion in an operation to disrupt communications and transport links north of Dublin. The Volunteers under his command used bicycles; he himself apparently had a motorcycle, and captured Ashbourne RIC barracks after a five hour gun-battle in which nine police officers and two volunteers were killed. This was the most notable incident of the Rising outside Dublin.

Ashe was sentenced to death but this was commuted to life imprisonment, and he was released in the general amnesty for republican prisoners in June 1917. He commanded great respect and popularity amongst republicans, and was involved in reorganising the IRB (of which he was now the head) and the various election campaigns run under the Sinn Féin banner in 1917. He was sentenced to two years in prison after giving a 'seditious' speech in Longford that summer and,

while detained in Mountjoy, was one of 40 republican prisoners who went on hunger strike demanding to be recognised as prisoners of war. The hunger strikers were force-fed: they were strapped into a chair and a tube was inserted through the nose or mouth to pump food into the stomach. On 25 September, Ashe was force-fed by an inexperienced doctor who inserted the tube forcibly but incorrectly. It burst through his lung and Ashe died on 25 September in the Mater hospital after his lungs filled with fluid.

His funeral on 30 September was organised by the IRB and marshalled by the Irish Volunteers. It was a massive event; bigger, according to the *Irish Independent*, than even that of Parnell in 1891. Huge numbers, perhaps as many as 30,000, lined the funeral route to Glasnevin and, at the graveside, a volley of shots were fired. The relatively unknown Michael Collins gave an exceptionally short oration: "Nothing additional remains to be said. That volley which we have just heard is the only speech it is proper to make over the grave of a dead Fenian". This was shorter than the famous oration that Patrick Pearse made at O'Donovan Rossa's funeral in Glasnevin two years previously, but the purpose was the same. Pearse used his speech to bring separatism back into the limelight in 1915, and Collins did the same. Ashe's death deprived the republican movement of a potential leader, but his funeral gave the Volunteers a chance to reorganise openly in the capital for the first time since the Rising. In that sense, it was a stepping stone towards the struggle for independence that would follow.



JOHN GIBNEY, former Education and Outreach Officer at Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, Finglas Road, Dublin 11. Web: glasnevincemetery.ie. Tel: 018826550. Email: museum@glasnevintrust.ie. See INTO website for news of an INTO event to commemorate Ashe on 25 September.



FOUNDED IN 1928
**GLASNEVIN
CEMETERY MUSEUM**

J is for Junior Infants

It's the first of September *and* the first day of teacher's permanent job ...

She is on a roller coaster of emotions as she faces into her new junior infant class. Last night, she felt apprehensive. This morning, she felt excited. For the last 20 minutes, however, she's felt like a goldfish in a bowl. That's how long her infants and their parents have been staring in the classroom window at her. She wishes she could make them stop. A more experienced teacher might advise her to gently, but firmly, lower the blinds. Teacher wouldn't mind so much if the kiddies and their parents would stick to staring. That she might get over. It's the way several of the children keep swiping at the glass that she finds disconcerting. Are they actually trying to enlarge her?

The bell goes and there is no more time to ponder the effects of technology on the contemporary child. Scarcely has Teacher positioned the last bowl of crayons, when the new arrivals are upon her.

Unsurprisingly, there are tears, pouts and instances of pure hysteria among them. And that's just the parents. True professional that she is, Teacher swings into action.

Before you can say 'lamh, lamh eile', she has the whole gang eating (ag ithe) out of her hand. The infants spot the jar of lollipops on her table. They take in the child-sized furniture, the colourful displays and the fish tank she snapped up in *Lidl*. Their eyes brighten and they begin to relax. Teacher smiles. It is at moments like this that she knows she made the right career choice.

In a previous life as a substitute teacher, she's endured a few nightmares where keeping an accurate Rolla is concerned. Memories of hours spent crying blood, sweat and tears over days that refused to balance wash over her. As God is her

witness, this time she is going to stay on top of things. So what if there are four Kanyes on her class list? And not one, but two, no, make that three Poppies amongst the girls. She knows that the parents of these children have done their best to bestow unusual names on their offspring. Sadly, the Kanyes, at least, are destined to refer to themselves as Kanye P. Kanye S. Kanye M. and Kanye O'B. for the remainder of their primary school careers.

Unsurprisingly, there are tears, pouts and instances of pure hysteria among them. And that's just the parents. True professional that she is, Teacher swings into action.

For the next while Teacher resembles a ringmaster. Every trick in the book is pulled out to ease the children's passage into 'big school'. Ensuring that the kids remain seated (or simply in the classroom) whilst simultaneously keeping them happy is a bit of a tightrope walk. Bark too many commands and the little monkeys... sorry; the little darlings... could be reluctant to return to school tomorrow. On the other hand, too much clowning around and it might all become a bit of a circus. And there's her audience to contend with. The bulk of the parents have departed. Inevitably, though, there are the diehards. These parents genuinely

believe that Teacher won't mind if they hang around a little bit longer. Plus, they really want to know how that story she's telling ends. Did Bimbo find a new home?

Break time arrives. Most of the children are well able to manage their new lunchboxes and beakers. But there's always the box that seems to have been modeled on Fort Knox. Teacher alerts the caretaker to the latter's intricacies.

Using all his years of experience and half the staffroom cutlery, he breaks into the thing. The dilemmas don't end there. Removing a wodge of fallen banana from her shoe, Teacher spots several boxes containing more sugar than your average Rom Com. She sighs. There'll be no happy ending where these lunches are concerned. Her heart will be well and truly broken when the saccharine contents send their eaters into orbit.

Howls of 'yuck!' and cries of 'that's pooey!' erupt from the back of the classroom. Aha. So that's where it's been hiding. Sandwiched (so to speak) in between the Fort Knox lunchbox and the Rom Com ones, there's always a third, the Stinkeroo. Thousands of years of civilisation and still there are parents who just don't get it. When it comes to winning friends and influencing other junior infants, egg sambos that have been cooped up in a lunchbox for several hours do not make the cut.

Suddenly, it is home time. Teacher ushers a straggling line of children to the door. Too late, she sees that some jackets are being worn upside down. Disaster follows. The foot of one child is placed into the trailing hood of the child in front of it. Both children crash to the ground. Both begin to wail. Hastily, Teacher slips them a jellybean. She slips herself four



more. (She hasn't been this exhausted since she canoed up the Amazon.)

Reunions between the infants and their collectors are joyful. Teacher assures each parent and/or guardian that their progeny had a wonderful day and stopped crying the moment that they left.

And yes, she has seen how well they can write their name. Head spinning, she waves off the last child, (collected 20 minutes later than advertised). The bright, ordered classroom of that morning looks as if it has been ransacked by marauding Vikings. There are crayons everywhere. A bag of crisps has been emptied into the dressing up box. A lump of marla is swimming with the fish. The sound of her mobile distracts Teacher. It's her own Mammy, dying to know how things went. Teacher informs her parent that she has

had the worst day of her life. She doesn't think she can face coming in tomorrow. Mammy tuts and clucks soothingly. The call ends and Teacher sees that, somewhere between the tuts and the clucks, she has picked up all the crayons. Strengthened, she contemplates the sunken marla. A shudder runs through her. She'll tackle the marla tomorrow. Tomorrow is another day.

MARY O'CALLAGHAN, St Mark's JNS, Tallaght, Dublin



Scoil Bhríde – céad bliain faoi bhláth

Tá Scoil Bhríde, Ragnallach – ‘the grand old dame of Gaelscoileanna’¹ mar a rinne David Mc Williams trácht uirthi – ag ceiliúradh céad bliain ar an bhfód i mbliana agus is mór is fiú súil a chaitheamh ar stair fhlúirseach na scoile agus ar an gceiliúradh ar fad atá faoi lánseol i mBÁC 6 le bliain anuas.

Bhunaigh Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh agus cara léi, Áine Nic Aoidh, Scoil Bhríde ar an gcúigiú lá de mhí Mheán Fómhair, 1917. Dhá pháiste dhéag a bhí i láthair an chéad mhaidin sin ag 70, Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath, ach níorbh fhada go raibh méadú suntasach ag teacht ar líon na bpáistí ann. Roimh dheireadh na bliana céanna, bhí céad páiste ar an rolla acu. Ceal airgid, áfach, aistríodh Scoil Bhríde go dtí 55 Bóthar Pheambróg sa bhliain 1921. Ní gan dua a théann scoil chun cinn, ámh, agus faoin mbliain 1926, b'éigean do Lúise agus Áine an scoil a chur faoi chúram na Roinne Oideachais. Sa bhliain 1931, bhronn an rialtas foirgneamh ag 19 Ardán Phort an Iarla ar Scoil Bhríde agus ba ó neart go neart a chuaigh an scoil ina dhiaidh sin. Ó 1965 i leith, is ar Bhóthar Feadh Cuileann, Ragnallach atá Scoil Bhríde suite.

Bheadh sé deacair stair Scoil Bhríde a phlé gan trácht a dhéanamh ar an ngaol idir Pádraig Mac Piarais agus Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh. Bhunaigh an Píarsach Scoil Éanna – scoil lán-Ghaelach do bhuachaillí – i dTeach Feadh Cuileann, Ragnallach sa bhliain 1908. Nuair a aistríodh an scoil go Ráth Fearnáin sa bhliain 1910, bhunaigh Pádraig Mac Piarais Scoil Íde do chailíní sa teach folamh, Teach Feadh Cuileann. Thosaigh Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh ag múineadh i Scoil Íde sa bhliain 1911, agus chuir sí aithne mhaith ar an bPíarsach ann. Níor mhair Scoil Íde ach dhá bhliain (1910-1912), ach mhúscaill an bhliain a chaith Lúise ann a spéis i dteagasc trí mheán na Gaeilge. I ndiaidh bhás an Phiarsaigh in 1916, bhí Lúise tiomanta fíis an Phiarsaigh a chomhlíonadh, agus bhunaigh sí Scoil Bhríde sa bhliain 1917 dá bharr.

Ba í Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh céad phríomhoide na scoile, agus d'fhan sí sa phost ó 1917 go dtí 1944. Seisear príomhoidí éagsúla a bhí ag Scoil Bhríde idir 1944 agus 2011 – Máire Ní Cheallacháin (1944-1950), Cáit Ní Ghrifín (1950-1964), Siobhán Uí Mhurchú (1964-1967), Mairéad Ní Ghacháin (1967-1970), Máire Uí Shéaghdha (1970-1991) agus Iseult Ní



Chléirigh (1991-2011). Sa bhliain 2011, roghnaíodh Tríona Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh mar phríomhoide na scoile agus tá sí ann ó shin. Tháinig fás ollmhór ar an scoil agus Tríona ag stiúradh na loinge. Chaith sí dua as cuimse i gcaitheamh na mblianta ag cinntiú nach gcaillfeadh an scoil príomhaidhmeanna agus bunfhís a mbunaitheoirí, agus d'éirigh go seoigh léi. Éireoidh Tríona as a cúram ag deireadh na bliana seo agus guíonn an fhoireann uile gach rath uirthi sa tsaoirse nuafhaighte aici.

Cuireadh tús leis an gcomóradh céad bliain le *Ceiliúradh* i gColáiste na Tríonóide, BÁC i mí Feabhra na bliana seo. Oíche cheoil agus chuideachta a bhí ann agus i measc na gceoltóirí breátha ar an oíche bhí Liam Ó Maonlaí, Fiachna Ó Braonáin, Méav Ní Mhaolchatha agus Maitiú Ó Casaide. Dhá mhí níos déanaí, i lár mhí Aibreáin, tháinig cuairteoir speisialta chugainn, an tUachtarán Mícheál D. Ó hUiginn. Chuir an tUachtarán taisceadán todhchaí, lán le saothar pháistí Scoil Bhríde, faoi ghlas dúinn ar an lá. Oslófar an taisceadán todhchaí sa bhliain 2067 - caoga bliain i ndiaidh chuairt an Uachtaráin. Ar Lá na nAithreacha i lár mhí an Mheithimh, bhí picnic mhór i bPáirc Naomh Éanna, Ráth Fearnáin – áit a bhfuil larsmalann na bPíarsach. Bhí an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gcloch ó mhaidin, agus tháinig slua mór chuige, idir pháistí, thuismitheoirí agus mhúinteoirí Scoil Bhríde. Bhí an-lá againn. Leanfar leis an gceiliúradh arís sa scoilbhliain nua agus is cinnte nach ndéanfaidh pobal Scoil Bhríde dearmad go deo ar chomóradh céad bliain na scoile.

Thug an ceiliúradh ar fad deis iontach dúinn i Scoil Bhríde súil a chaitheamh ar phíomhchuspóirí ár mbunaitheoirí. Theastaigh ó Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh agus ó Áine Nic Aoidh, scoil a chur ar fáil 'ina ndéanfaí cainteoirí líofa Gaeilge de na daltaí'². Theasaigh uathu freisin 'go gcoinneofar spiorad na bPíarsach beo ann i gcónaí agus go gcomhlíonfar a mianta agus a gculpóirí i Scoil Bhríde'.³ D'oibrigh múinteoirí agus iarmhúinteoirí Scoil Bhríde go dian dícheallach ar na cuspóirí céanna le céad bliain anuas, agus dá mbeadh Lúise agus Áine fós linn inniu, is cinnte go mbeidís an-bhródúil as an scoil mar atá sí in 2017. Tá éileamh an-mhór ar an nGaelscolaíocht i mBaile Átha Cliath anois, dar ndóigh, agus caithfidh an chéad ghlúin eile a seacht ndícheall a dhéanamh le cinntiú nach gcaillfear spiorad na bPíarsach i Scoil Bhríde. 'Is iad (Pádraig agus Liam Mac Piarais) pátrúin ár scoile iad agus cuireadh faoina n-aire agus faoina gcoimirce í le súil go mairfeadh spiorad na nGael inti'⁴. Maireann, agus le cúnamh Dé, mairfidh go deo.

References

- McWilliams, David, 'An Irish Solution to the Best Schools Question', *The Irish Times*, 13 December 2005, www.irishtimes.com/news/education/an-irish-solution-to-the-best-schools-question-1.1286759
- Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh, Lúise, 'Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh; Ag Insint a Scéal Féin' in Mairéad Ní Ghacháin, *Lúise Gabhánach Ní Dhufaigh agus Scoile Bhríde*, (Dublin: Johnstown Press, 1993), p. 5.
- Ibid. p. 6.
- Ibid.

GARRET SWEENEY, Scoil Bhríde, Ragnallach, Baile Átha Cliath.

Seasonal character

Create fun characters for every season in writing and visual arts

You may or may not be familiar with the work of Italian Renaissance painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo (Arcimboldi) and his famous portraits of the four seasons. If you are not, you can find his images on many websites such as www.giuseppe-arcimboldo.org. Arcimboldi's work can be used to both look at and respond to and as a starting point in exploring the whole idea of collage/montage

Springquinox Starhead

Her favourite colour is light green and she loves the smell of freshly cut grass. She is always cheerful, polite, fun and loves to chat to passers-by. She dresses in green and wears daisy chains. Her favourite flowers are the snowdrops because they are the first flowers she sees when she wakes up from her winter sleep. She has lots of pet rabbits and loves April showers. She loves to make Easter bonnets using daffodils and tulips. She loves to eat spring cabbage flavoured with spring onions and her very favourite day of the year is April Fool's Day. Her spring-time jobs include polishing the bluebells, unfurling leaves and helping the birds to mind their baby chicks. Her home is a small thatched cottage at the edge of the woods.

techniques. In this article we will be exploring how the theme of SEASONS, as explored by Arcimboldi and by many other artists of various times, cultures and genres (Hokusai, Monet, etc.), might be developed using both language and visual arts. This particular idea of seasonal characters is also explored by the marvellously quirky author, Molly Potter, in her 'Outside the Box' series as the theme 'Seasons Personified'. I highly recommend her books to teachers at all class levels.

As usual, we should begin with oral language activity. We might start by discussing the concept of personification, giving human characteristic to ideas, thoughts or inanimate objects that are not human. With senior classes you might ally this with a discussion

on anthropomorphism (giving human characteristics to animals) or on zoomorphism (giving them to inanimate objects). Explain to the children that they are going to create a character for a particular season. This activity might be organised in a variety of ways, ranging from a simple drawing activity with children working individually to a group collaborative activity involving group painting, construction work or work with fabrics. (The illustrations below are group pieces involving fabric collage/appliqué).

Begin with giving your particular character a name. Never mind boring Mr Autumn or Ms Summer, go for something exotic or unusual, maybe try to use alliteration – Wrinkled Wally Winter, Sally Sunburn Summer, etc. Practice your character's signature. Make some preliminary sketches of your character using a variety of age-appropriate, coloured drawing tools. Ask the children to think about, make notes about and include in their drawings things such as





Curriculum Objective

Make drawings, paintings, prints, claywork, constructions and fabric works based on the imagination, using a wide variety of art tools, techniques and media



- your character's favourite colours, smells or weather;
- your character's favourite foods, drinks and meals;
- chosen clothing, headgear, jewellery, hairstyle and footwear;
- personality traits (possibly provide a list of adjectives to help here);
- seasonal jobs that your character has to perform;

- your character's pet, etc.

In your drawings you might also include sketches of your character's home/house and gardens and even make a list of what plants you think they might like to grow – the possibilities are endless. If you can't think of ideas, don't worry, the children will suggest lots of them. A sample character profile for Ms Starhead is shown here (first from left on p54).

Preliminary sketches, drawings and ideas are then used as the stimulus for artwork in the other strand areas of the curriculum. If the preliminary work has been done with children working individually on the creation of a character it might be appropriate to create the character in clay, to paint a portrait of the character or even to construct a puppet of the character. If the children have been working in groups to create a shared character the initial work in drawing might be used as a stimulus for a group collaborative large-scale painting, a

constructed diorama or (as illustrated here) cooperative fabric collages/appliqués.

You could, of course, use this idea as a once-off lesson plan, as a single group project when all four seasons are illustrated at the one time or indeed focus on any one particular character at a seasonally appropriate time. So possibly you might use the idea as a project to begin the school year by exploring and creating images of an autumn character/s with children working either individually or in groups to produce an autumn family.

MICHAEL O'REILLY, a retired teacher, has worked with the NCCA and PSP on the design implementation of the arts curricula. He has worked in a wide variety of schools and other educational settings and is currently working with Scoilnet as a subject expert, continuing to update the I Am An Artist website. Michael also developed, with INTO, an online summer course 'InTouch with Visual Arts.'



Alexander Leif
Autumn



William Walderf
Winter III

Three days in Borneo

A jungle experience takes Ciara McNally out of her comfort zone

So you fancy a trip to South East Asia but enjoy a more 'off the beaten track' experience. Why not consider Borneo? I visited this summer and, trust me, this trip takes you out of your comfort zone and drops you right in the thick of the jungle, bugs and all.

Fun facts

- Borneo is the third largest island in the world and falls under the governance of three different countries Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.
 - It is also home to some of the oldest rainforest in the world (estimated to be about 130 million years old).
 - Borneo is home to the largest flower in the world, *Rafflesia Arnoldii*/corpse flower, because it apparently smells like rotting corpses. Grim. I did not see it.
- I spent three days in Borneo and included an overnight jungle experience on my itinerary. Fly into Sandakan from Kuala Lumpur with Air Asia for as little as €35 one way.

I stayed in a hotel in Sandakan, about a 20 minute drive from the airport. Buy a taxi ticket inside the terminal building and then queue up for the drivers outside. The ride cost about 30 Malaysian Ringgit which is about €4-5. Taxi apps are also cheaper alternatives to taxis if you have access to wifi.

My visit to Borneo was dominated by my hope to see orangutan and proboscis monkeys in the wild. So I opted to go with Uncle Tan's Jungle Experience for a 'roughing it/wilderness adventure'.

We chose the two day/one night experience but were repeatedly reminded that a three day/two night trek would give you more opportunities to see more wildlife and immerse yourself fully. Since I am not a huge camping fan, two days seemed enough for me but, in hindsight, once you are there and soaked to the skin you may as well see as much as you can.



After a quick explanatory briefing, get your bed sheets and make your way to your wooden hut on stilts.

Lunch is provided before departure at the Uncle Tan Jungle Experience Base Camp before you are driven to the jetty on the Kinabatangan river. Baggage and all are loaded into speedboats and you are ferried along the river for about an hour towards camp. The guides point out wildlife they spot with their incredible eagle eyes en route. This is the start of your jungle nature spotting experience.

We arrived at camp and are reminded that this is not a five star experience. But who comes on a jungle trek expecting anything of the sort? After a quick explanatory briefing, get your bed sheets and make your way to your wooden hut on stilts. The sleeping huts are reached via purpose-built wooden walkways over the swamp. Each hut sleeps six to eight people. Your mattress on the floor has a mosquito net around it and each hut is furnished with a plastic, sealable bin, so the night time monkey visitors can't get at your stuff! Toiletries and medicines go in here. Apparently jungle critters like pills! Don't be foolish enough to bring food into the huts. It made me think of those bear proof bins in national parks in the US.

Once we had settled in, our guides brought us on a night safari, to spot more wildlife. We were unfortunate as a thunderstorm had started about 20 minutes before we were due to go out and, unsurprisingly, the animals like to

take shelter.

We saw tree frogs, kingfishers, spiders, macaques and there were rumors of a crocodile!

Our next morning outing provided drier and more favorable conditions and we saw proboscis monkeys and a baby croc but there are no guarantees of spying any wildlife in particular, so no pygmy elephants or orangutans for us! The three day visitors go on a jungle walk and this takes you away from the river deeper into the jungle. This two day/one night visit was €74 and included all meals and transfers to and from the Base Camp in Sepilok. Drinks are extra but very reasonable.

Since orangutans were on my list and I didn't get to see them on the overnight experience, a visit to the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Sepilok (close to the Uncle Tan base camp!) allows you to see, close up, orangutans who come to the centre at feeding time. These primates were rescued and taught skills needed to help them to survive in the wild. There is also an orphanage where the babies are cared for by volunteers.

CIARA McNALLY teaches in Greystones, Co Wicklow. Check out Ciara's blog at mysuitcasesdiaries.org for more information.



What to bring

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Mosquito repellent. | • Walking shoes (however in case). | • Medications. |
| • Long-sleeved (light material) top & trousers. | • Sweater (in case it is cold). | • Baby wipes. |
| • Underwear & socks. | • Raincoat. | • Flashlight. |
| • PJs. | • Essential toiletries & medications. | • Camera and power pack. |
| • Change of clothing (just in case). | | |



TEAGASC NA GRAMADAÍ

Is gné riachtanach de theagasc agus d'fhoghlaim na Gaeilge í an ghramadach. Ní mór an ghramadach a mhúineadh go sonrach i gcomhthéacs snáitheanna an churaclaim – an teanga ó bhéal, léitheoireacht agus scríbhneoireacht.



Póstaeir ar na Botúin is Coitianta

Tá sraith sé phóstaeir déag dírithe ar na botúin is coitianta a dhéanann páistí ar fáil saor in aisce ar shuíomh gréasáin COGG, (www.cogg.ie). Tá na póstaer maisithe go gleoite le cartúin a léiríonn brí na n-abairtí, agus cabhraíonn na leideanna pictiúrtha seo le tuiscint na bpáistí. Tá nótaí don mhúinteoir ag bun gach póstaer a thugann noda maidir le rialacha gramadaí

ar chóir aird a tharraingt orthu.

Úsáid sa rang:

- Úsáid an t-ainm briathartha in áit an Mhodh Ordaitheach agus tú ag caint leis na páistí. In ionad "Dún an doras" agus "Suigh síos" a rá, moltar: "Ar mhiste leat an doras a dhúnadh?" agus "Ar mhiste leat suí síos". Ciallaíonn sé seo go mbeidh an fhoirm

cheart ar eolas ag na páistí chun abairtí ar nós "An bhfuil cead agam an doras a dhúnadh?" agus "An bhfuil cead agam suí síos?" a rá go cruinn.

- Múin agus déan cleachtadh ar fhreagraí oiriúnacha ar nós "Níor mhiste", "Cinnté" nó "Fadhb ar bith". Cuir comhrá beirte ar siúl le páiste amháin ag tabhairt orduithe agus an páiste eile á leanúint.
- Iarr ar pháistí póstaer dá gcuid féin a dhearadh le habairtí nua ag tosú le "Ar mhiste leat ...". Tabhair ainmfhocal agus ainmneacha briathra dóibh chun tacú leo abairtí a chumadh.
- Bain leas as na póstaer chun a léiriú gurb é an t-ainmfhocal uatha a leanann 'cúpla' i gcónaí, mar shampla cúpla duine, cúpla uair.

Is féidir na póstaer a íoslódáil agus a phriontáil saor in aisce ó <http://www.cogg.ie/postaeir-ar-na-botuin-is-coitianta/>



Tá treoir do mhúinteoirí maidir le múineadh na gramadaí san acmhainn Bain Súp As! le hAisling Ní Dhiorbháin. Úsáidtear cur chuige dírithe ar fhoirm na teanga le gach ceacht. Téann an acmhainn i ngleic le laigí cruinnis ar bhealach spráilí ina bhfuil an foghlaiméir lárnach agus gníomhach. Díritear ar na spriocstruchtúir Ghaeilge is mó a ndéanann páistí botún nó earráid leo, m.sh. na réamhfhocail, baininsneach nó firinsneach agus an tuiséal ginideach.

Díríonn 'Bain Súp As' ar fheasacht teanga na bpáistí a fhorbairt: ní insíonn an múinteoir an riail do na páistí ach spreagtar iad le hanailís a dhéanamh ar an teanga. Sa dóigh seo tagann siad ar phatrúin agus rialacha gramadaí iad féin. Tá 40 ceacht gramadaí sa phacáiste le deachtaithe snasta, scéalta

digiteacha, gníomhaíochtaí, cluichí agus moltaí don mhúinteoir.

Úsáid sa rang:

- Spreag na páistí le teacht ar riail trí phlé ranga a dhéanamh ar struchtúir agus patrúin a thugann siad faoi ndeara sa Ghaeilge.
- Lig don rang scríobh i ndialann mhachnaimh faoin bpatrún a thugann siad faoi ndeara agus abair leo tuilleadh samplaí a aimsiú. Tá treoracha maidir le húsáid na dialainne i lámhleabhar an mhúinteora.
- Déan cleachtadh ar an teanga "Cad a thugann tú faoi deara?" "An bhfeiceann tú riail nó patrún?" Lig dóibh rialacha a mhíniú ina



dteanga féin.

- Déan tagairt do rialacha ar leith nuair a thagann siad chun cinn le linn ceachtanna teanga ó bhéal, léitheoireacht agus scríbhneoireacht agus i rith ghnáthimeachtaí an lae ionas go sealbhóidh na páistí na struchtúir mar chuid nádúrtha dá stór focal.

Is féidir 'Bain Súp As' a íoslódáil saor in aisce ó <http://www.cogg.ie/bain-sup-as/>. Tá cóipeanna crua de lámhleabhar an mhúinteora ar fáil le ceannach.

Reviews

Understanding and embracing autism

Aspertools is a practical guide for those who are seeking to understand autism. It presents a set of problem-solving approaches to tackle scenarios that can cause difficulty. The book is written by Dr Harold Reitman who is the father of Rebecca, a young woman with autism. Rebecca's insight and the strategies, devised by her teacher Pati Fizzano, add greatly to this book.

Each chapter covers a different topic such as transitions, routines and social situations. Scenarios are explored and the reader is encouraged to problem-solve by understanding each challenge through the lens of autism. The theory of autism is translated into real life through this approach and solutions are arrived at that are both realistic and respectful to the individual.

Tasks that might seem impossible are broken down into manageable chunks so that progress, however small, can be seen and experienced by pupil, parent and teacher. This incremental approach to learning is a key feature of the book and the author uses a quotation from John Dewey to illustrate it: "Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another".

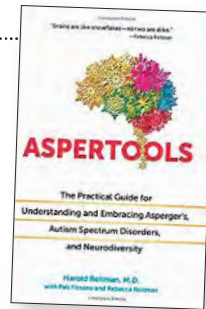
The traits associated with AS are

explained in positive terms, strengths are identified and used to good effect. From a teaching perspective the most useful piece of advice is to reduce the number of goals for an individual student but to ensure that there is regular monitoring and review of goals so that the IEP is a real 'living' document. The author also advises a highly structured classroom environment and use of checklists to aid the child's independent living skills.

This book is recommended as it provides an insightful approach to understanding autism and the need for a tailored approach that respects those who live with autism. It encourages us to accept and embrace neurodiversity by developing an understanding that will allow children and adults on the autism spectrum to fulfil their potential in life.

Aspertools: The Practical Guide for Understanding and Embracing Asperger's, Autism Spectrum Disorders, and Neurodiversity is available from aspertools.com. Price: \$14.95.

Reviewed by Alice O'Donnell, INTO Education Committee.



'Strike'-ing story of an unlikely superhero

Strike One is the first book in a series by teacher Joe Crossan. It is the story of Tim Staunton, who lives in a town in Co Meath. After being struck by lightning, and miraculously surviving the experience, Tim is left with some unusual powers. These powers earn him the moniker 'Strike' and the role of a modern superhero for Ireland. This fast-paced story introduces us to cybervillains, Ireland's very own secret service 'EIRENET' and the obligatory apocalyptic showdown which takes place at the Spire on O'Connell Street in Dublin.

In the interests of a balanced review (as I don't fit into the target audience of 10 to 16 year olds!), I enlisted the help of a fellow reviewer – Conor Farrell (sixth class).

"I really liked this book! My favourite character is Vinny because he is a good friend and he supports Tim. My favourite part of the book is when Tim's uncle Rob brings him to the EIRENET headquarters below the Mexoil petrol station. This book is very exciting and I found it hard to put down. I'd love to read the sequel if there is one."

This book would be ideal for use with fifth or sixth classes. Themes covered include adventure, friendship, relationships and a very pertinent warning about the dangers of social media. It would enhance delivery of the SPHE curriculum and lessons from Webwise.

This book is published by W & G Baird Ltd. Order from joe.crossan@gmail.com, 085 1269238 or www.facebook.com/striketimstaunton/ for €11.99. ISBN 978-1-5272-0278-8.

Reviewed by Caroline McCarthy (and Conor Farrell), Scoil Mhuire, Corofin, Co Clare.



An exciting modern fantasy tale

Heartblazer by Stuart Purcell, a primary teacher, is a creative fantasy novel with an appropriate narrative aimed at children from 9-12 years old. The story is set in Dublin and the plot unfolds around many familiar landmarks which children can identify with. The story is based on the adventures of Michael and Evie as they undertake to solve the water shortage in the city whilst rescuing Michael's beloved pet dog, Penny. There are a wide variety of themes running through the novel which would make it ideal as a class read – heroism, empathy, love, family, the environment, water safety, and above all friendship.

The story weaves together a young boy's struggle to make friends, save his dog, cope with the challenge of new

circumstances, solve problems, brave fear and find a way to come out on top. There are talking mythical creatures, magic, villains and hurdles to encounter along the way. The story is most original in its content and moves at an enjoyable pace.

Personally, I loved the fact that the story is based in modern Ireland. I appreciated that it focuses on children's life experiences, friendships and imaginative characters without the use of smartphones and the internet.

Self published. ISBN: 9780993513718. Cost: STG£5.95 on amazon.co.uk

Reviewed by Orla Faulkner, Drogheda, Co Louth.



Finishing Touches

|| Resources for teachers, noticeboard of upcoming events and the Comhar Linn Crossword ||

Noticeboard



Copy date

Copy you wish to have considered for publication in the October issue of *InTouch* should arrive in Head Office by 11 September.

The deadline for the November issue is 9 October.



September is Heart Month

Over 2,000 people under 65 have a stroke each year but the good news is that by making small changes to your lifestyle today you can reduce your chances of having a stroke now and in the future.

Make time for a blood pressure check and find out what you need to do to avoid stroke.

A free six page Irish Heart promotional leaflet with top lifestyle tips for stroke prevention is available at www.irishheart.ie



School inspection

The INTO values members' views on any aspect of school inspection/evaluation by the DES Inspectorate. If you have recently experienced an inspection in your classroom or school and would like to communicate your views to the INTO, you can fill out an Inspection Feedback Form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/X6CJ5QS.

All information provided will be treated as confidential.



Teachers Against Bullying helpline

The Teachers Against Bullying helpline aims to help teachers and principals who have been, or are being bullied by member/s of school staff and/or inspectors and/or BOM.

Contact Teresa McMahon at 01 288 3062 (7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday and Wednesday only).



Reunions

Carysfort – 50 Years – 1967 to 2017
Venue: Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

Date: Thursday, 23 November 2017

Booking directly at hotel.
Tel: 09064 42004 or email res@hodsonbayhotel.com – William O'Reilly, Reservations Manager.

Rates: €120 single occupancy, dinner, bed & breakfast. €80 sharing.
Two night package also available – Wednesday/Thursday including dinner on one night: €130, single or sharing.

Booking as soon as possible recommended.
Upgrades available €20 - €60.

Class of '77 – St Patrick's College, Drumcondra – 40 year reunion
Venue: Teachers' Club, Parnell Square on 11 November 2017, from 8p.m.

Contact marymcdyer@gmail.com

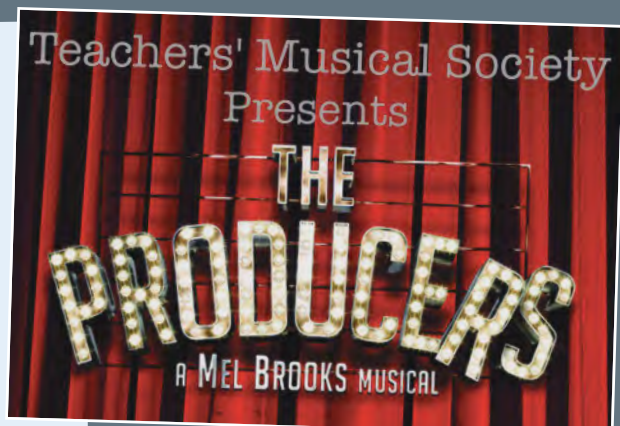


Want to dance, sing and act?

The Teachers' Musical Society (TMS) invites any teacher who loves to dance, sing, and act, to come to their annual information night on Monday, 18 September at 7.30 p.m. in the Teachers' Club on Parnell Square.

This year's show will be *The Producers*. The show is funny and light-hearted, and will keep you hooked until the very end!

TMS welcomes new members and this might be your year to join! If you are interested visit Facebook www.facebook.com/teachersms or contact teachers.ms@gmail.com



Two pages with Comhar Linn prizewinners, Crossword, resources for the classroom ...

Comhar Linn draw winners – May and June 2017

May 2017

Car – Toyota Auris

Sinéad Lundon-Scanlon, Lurgan NS, Gort, Co Galway.

Car – Toyota Yaris

Fiona Sugrue, Glanbrien NS, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford.

Weekend for two plus two

All-Ireland Football final Tickets

Sorcha Harrison, SN An Linbh Íosa, Coxtown, Carrigans, Co Donegal.

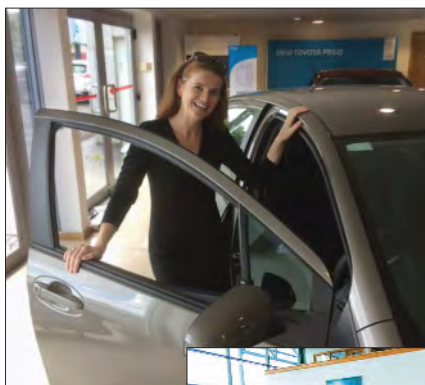
Weekend for two plus two

All-Ireland Hurling final Tickets

Maria Reilly, Gaelscoil Osraí, Loch Bui, Cill Channigh.

Cash – € 1,000

John Farrell, SN Talamh na Manach, Carlingford, Co Louth.



Left: Maeve McCafferty, Castlereagh, who won a Toyota Yaris in the Comhar Linn June draw.

Right: Sinéad Lundon-Scanlon, Lurgan NS, Gort, who won a Toyota Auris in the Comhar Linn May draw



June

Car – Toyota Corolla

Louise Hickey, Dromakeenan NS, Roscrea, Co Tipperary

Car – Toyota Yaris

Maeve McCafferty, Castlereagh, Co Roscommon.

Weekend for two plus two

All-Ireland Football final Tickets

Jonathan McKenna, St Oliver Plunkett School, Grove Road, Malahide, Co Dublin.

Weekend for two plus two

All-Ireland Hurling final Tickets

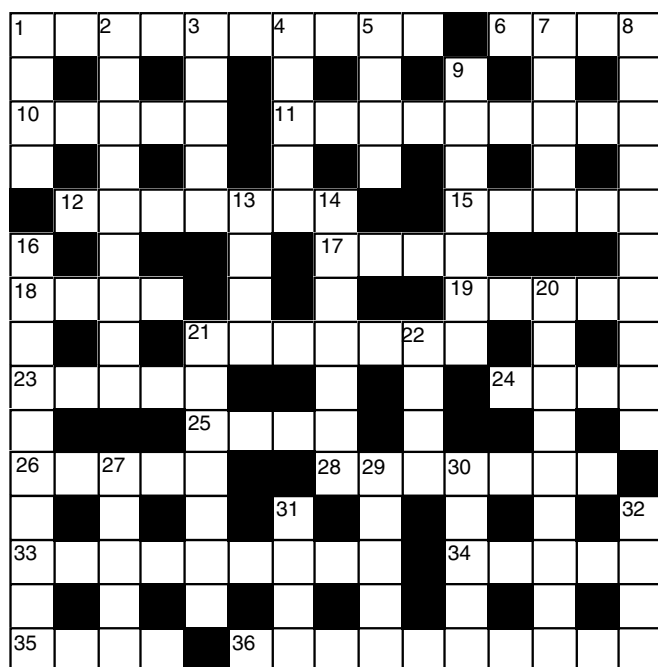
Elizabeth Carmody, Knocklong, Co Limerick

Cash – € 1,000

Seán O Muirheartaigh, Tralee, Co Kerry.

Comhar Linn Crossword no 183

A draw for 2 x €100 will be made from all correct entries.
Simply complete the crossword and send it to 'InTouch Crossword', INTO, 35 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, before Friday 29th September, 2017



NAME:
ADDRESS:

ACROSS

1. Ethyl pours out of what makes furniture comfortable. (10)
6. Party animal. (4)
10. To dismantle a snare like this is not so crazy. (5)
11. Going up in the world, but not with amateur movement. (9)
12. In case the boulder makes a waterfall ... (7)
15. ... the Eastern mystic displays potassium in the market. (5)
- 17 & 35a. Grey boa I transformed into a cartoon creature. (4,4)
18. Long ago, he wrote part of the 'Mikado' video. (4)
19. Irrational numbers can be found right among the soap bubbles. (5)
21. See 2 down.
23. Every night, non unionised individuals begin to cause boredom. (5)
24. Must it become dirt? (4)
25. Tie one trashcan to many. (4)
26. Young Wojtyla's name, as it appeared in a Ruda Alaska roll book. (5)
28. The lies that come from this breed of dog! (7)
33. Reserve? To Mr Doherty that could be worth volumes! (4,5)
34. Cried out for some drink. (5)
35. See 17 across.
36. Be Oscar; get the communist confused. (10)

DOWN

- 1 The Soviet Union, as it was initially! (1.1.1.1.2 & 21a. Oh! Inaugurals hang loosely for a classic East European dish. (9,7)
3. Charly Rich partly contributed the words of the song. (5)
4. Edward takes a Greek character in? That's not so hot. (5)
5. Does this chessman fly around the board? (4)
7. Dense as part of a gothic keystone. (5)
8. Seeing Troy in ruins might give one that charitable spirit. (10)
9. Would a water spaniel be such a gilled one? (7)
13. In Faro, one may arrange for a hair stylist to give you this. (4)
14. They may prevent certain pupils from being seen! (7)
16. Ken robbed a fast food concoction. (5,5)
20. An aide-memoire about an article identifying what's left of the division. (9)
21. Entrails comprising broken leg bits. (7)
22. Is it the only seafood? (4)
27. Wine produced initially right inside old Jerez amphorae. (5)
29. Upsetting Noah, I created some Asian capital. (5)
30. The top pilot in Longford stiffened the drink. (5)
31. Island in the south-east (around Kerry). (4)
32. Poke with a soft stick. (4)

In Touch No. 182 Solutions: Across 1. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie 6. Oahu 10. Freon 11. Underdone 12. Present Imperfect 15. Verdi 17. Ogle 18. Cage 19. Risky 21. Laundry 23. Tutsi 24. Pawn 25. Bend 26. Upper 28. Old Bill 34. Lowry.
Down 1. Tofu 2. Eyes right 3. Rungs 4. Mourn 5. Odds 7. Amour 8. Unedifying 9. Bravery 13. Edna 14. Tornado 16. Ecotourism 20. Swallowed 21. Library 22. Rued 27. Pipes 29. Latin 30. Baler 31. Pete 32. Tyne.

Winners of Crossword no. 182: Eithne O'Connor, Arklow, Co. Wicklow and Breda Hynes, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Winners of Crossword no. 181: Brenda Cahill, Clondalkin, D22 and Sinead Crilly, Drogheda, Co Louth

Winners— 'Love makes a family' competition

Congratulations to the winners of the 'Love Makes a Family' competition which was run in May by the LGBT Teachers' Group to coincide with International Family Equality Day (IFED) and International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Bi-phobia (IDAHO). Entries were asked to reflect on the theme 'Love Makes a Family'; recognising that families are central to the formation of children's identity and that it is vitally important for all children to see their families represented in lessons and recognised by the school community.

The competition aimed to encourage schools to create positive school climates that foster respect and acceptance of all family structures, to celebrate the diversity of students and their families and to address homophobic and transphobic bullying in primary schools.

The judges were very impressed by the number and quality of entries, from classrooms representing different communities, age groups and

parts of the country. Just as our families can take many forms but all share the common factor of love, the competition entries took many forms but all shared the common factor of creativity! There was a variety of entries – from art projects to poems, stories, plays, songs and videos. Winners received an iPad and a hamper of books for each first prize and hampers of books for all other winners.

PRIZE WINNERS

Junior category

1st prize: Second Class, CBS Tralee.
2nd Prize: Sylvia and Ciara's Junior Infant Class, Dublin 7 ETNS.
Runners up: Rian's First Class, Holywell ETNS and Maura's First Class, Shellybanks ETNS.

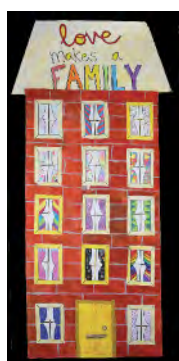
Senior category


1st: Orlaith's Fifth Class, Dublin 7 ETNS.
2nd prize: Fiona's Fifth Class, Castaheaney ETNS.
Runners up: 2nd/3rd Class, St Brigid's NS, Moate and Fifth/Sixth Class, Ballyfeeney NS, Roscommon.

Whole school category


Holywell ETNS

You can see all of the prizewinning entries on www.facebook.com/INTOLGBTTeachersGroup.






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Star site



ST BRIGID'S GNS, KILLESTER
<http://stbrigidsgns.ie>
Perfectly demonstrates how a school website can be a great point of communication between schools and parents.

ONES TO WATCH



IT LESSON PLANS
<https://www.cliste.org/lesson-plans>
Lessons around how to use computers and the internet safely to research, compile, create and present information.

AUGMENTED REALITY APP – QUIVER
quivervision.com/coloring-packs
App around a colouring page that has the potential to be used across subjects.

ONLINE TIMERS
online-stopwatch.com/classroom-timers
Numerous formats include egg timer, clock countdown, rocket timer etc. Useful for IWB.

Top 10

- 1 ROALD DAHL THEM PAGE**
scoilnet.ie/primary/theme-pages/english/roald-dahl/
Scoilnet-assembled links and activities
- 2 STORYLINE ONLINE**
storylineonline.net
Video clips of stories read aloud by professional actors.
- 3 SCOILNET MAPS**
maps.scoilnet.ie
OSi maps and tools tailored specifically for schools.
- 4 HANDWRITING PRACTICE**
handwritingpractice.net
Sophisticated online tool that allows teachers to customise handwriting worksheets in print, d'Nealian or cursive styles.
- 5 RAINN AGUS AMHRAIN**
resources.teachnet.ie/clane/2008/index.html
Songs and rhymes based on curriculum topics.
- 6 SONGS IN IRISH**
songsinirish.com
Extensive list of Irish traditional songs with lyrics.
- 7 TOM CREAN: ANTARCTIC EXPLORER**
resources.teachnet.ie/anolan/2006
Examines the life and explorations of one of Ireland's best known explorers.
- 8 TEACHER IDEAS ON ROALD DAHL**
roalddahlfans.com/students-teachers/teacher-ideas
A collection of lesson plans and classroom ideas collected by a Roald Dahl fan club website.
- 9 LITERACY SHED**
literacyshed.com/the-ks1-shed.html
Like a blog containing countless animated/visual resources for literacy lessons.
- 10 AN FÓMHAR**
ncte.ie/upload/scoilnet/An_Fomhar
Talking book about autumn aimed at infants to second class.