

# Workshops

## Principals' and Deputy Principals' Conference 2021

You will attend one workshop in the morning, 11.45am and one workshop in the afternoon, 1.40pm. Numbers are limited to 50 in most workshops and will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The deadline for registration is Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> September.

### **1. SUSTAINED WELLNESS FOR THE SCHOOL LEADER – REST, RECOVER, RESTORE AND RENEW ANN-MARIE IRELAND – BREATHING SPACE IRELAND**

A safe, restful space for the school leader to recover and restore energy, to recalibrate thoughts and to reflect upon the many ways that simple daily practices can contribute to sustained well-being even within these challenging times. Best practice in wellness for the school leader will be explored within this space in a realistic and practical manner for ease of transition into school and personal life. The school leader embodies a powerful role requiring them to be a guiding light for others at all times. However, they cannot possibly light the way for others or indeed for themselves to enjoy their own life if they are not tending to their own needs first. This space addresses those needs and is best experienced in a quiet, comfortable space, if possible.

### **2. LEADING AND SUSTAINING CURRICULUM CHANGE - THE DRAFT PRIMARY CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**

#### **DR PATRICK SULLIVAN, DR JACQUELINE FALLON AND DR DEREK GRANT – NCCA**

Since the introduction of the *Primary School Curriculum* in 1999, the extent and pace of change is striking. Diverse classrooms, ever increasing and changing demands of the primary school, policy changes and new findings from research on teaching, learning and assessment combine to create both a need and an opportunity to revisit the primary curriculum as a whole and to ask key questions:

- What is the purpose of a primary education?
- What priorities, structure and components within a redeveloped curriculum can support this?

These questions are at the heart of the proposals presented in the *Draft Primary Curriculum Framework* which is currently being consulted upon. This workshop presents the draft framework and provides information on how to get involved in the consultation in the months ahead.

### **3. OUR BRAIN, STRESS AND BOUNDARIES: THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP**

#### **SEÁNA Ó RODAIGH AND AOIFE HUGHES – BEWELL-DOWELL**

Principals and deputy principals are invited to participate in an interactive workshop on the importance and benefit of

understanding neuroscience in sustaining effective school leadership. We will explore how stress literally shapes our brain and in conclusion, highlight the benefit of setting boundaries as a buffer to burnout.

#### **4. PRACTICAL APPROACHES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF SEN**

##### **DEIRDRE BOURKE – NCSE TEAM MANAGER FOR LIMERICK, CLAIRE AND KERRY**

In this workshop, the NCSE will provide practical guidance on approaches to managing special educational needs (SEN) resource allocation and supporting children with SEN. They will also outline the role of NCSE in supporting schools including application processes for SEN resource allocation reviews, teacher professional learning and guidance for school principals and deputy principals on leading inclusive schools. Deirdre leads a team of advisors, SENOs and visiting teachers for deaf/hard of hearing and blind/visually impaired to deliver local services to improve the delivery of education services to persons with SEN.

#### **5. FLIPPING THE CALENDAR ONTO ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR: HOW TO KEEP EVERYONE GOING**

##### **PAUL DICKER – PAUL DICKER CONSULTING**

School leaders have encountered unprecedented challenges in their work over the last 18 months. One of the greatest of these has been the ability to sustain staff motivation levels as difficulties have persisted. This workshop will explore practical strategies for continuing to sustain momentum, enthusiasm and energy within your staff throughout the coming school year.

#### **6. LEADING A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO SCHOOL SELF EVALUATION (SSE)**

##### **AIDAN O’ SHEA, KATE LISTON AND COLM Ó TUATHAIL – PDST LEADERSHIP TEAM**

SSE is about empowering schools to take a look at how they teach and how pupils learn and provides an opportunity to respond flexibly to challenges as they arise - something which is particularly relevant at this time. This workshop will explore how school leaders can engage with the SSE process in a sustainable manner. It will clarify the arrangements for SSE for the 2021/22 school year and outline possible approaches to ensure that SSE goes beyond the remit of senior leadership in the school and is present in every classroom, for every teacher, every day. The links between SSE, DEIS and Wellbeing will also be explored, and a number of key resources will be presented to help support the successful and sustainable implementation of the SSE process.

#### **7. MIDDLE LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOLS: PRACTICES, POSSIBILITIES AND POTHOLES**

##### **FINN Ó MURCHÚ – MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE, HEAD OF SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

As we seek to maximise the leadership potential of all in our school, this workshop is based on stories from schools as captured by participants in the MIC Thurles M.Ed in Middle Leadership and Mentoring. Scenarios will blend theory with practice, emotion with ambition with a view to giving participants an opportunity to explore what middle leadership might mean from the perspective of principals and deputy principals across a range of school settings.

#### **8. FOSTERING POSITIVE PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONS AND MAINTAINING POSITIVE STAFF RELATIONS**

##### **MARIA MCHENRY, TJ CLARE AND MUIREANN FOYNES – LEGAL, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EQUALITY SECTION, INTO**

School leaders play a vital role in maintaining a positive environment for all in the school community. Members of the INTO Legal, Industrial Relations and Equality (LIRE) Team will provide practical advice for principals and deputy principals on engaging proactively with parents and staff in fostering positive parent-staff relations, in addition to promoting and maintaining positive staff relations. From time to time, school leaders may be called upon to engage in the relevant procedures pertaining to staff and parents in order to address issues that arise. Members of the LIRE Team will present and discuss a number of scenarios, generally centred around common queries raised by members in this specific area. It is envisaged that participants would take away some practical information, approaches and strategies for resolving a range of issues, both formal and informal, which may arise amongst staff or between parents and staff.