

Workshop 6: Small Schools Cluster Project

This workshop will share the experience of one of the clusters participating in the Small Schools Cluster Research Project being supported by INTO, DE, IPPN, CPSMA, CIBE and Gaeloideachas. The aim of the project is to explore different ways in which to improve the sustainability of small schools, through working in clusters.

The workshop will explore the following:

1. What Principals and Deputy Principals see as the advantages of formal cluster arrangements between small schools
2. The possible drawbacks of formal cluster arrangements?
3. Views on the role of Chief Administrative Officer as outlined in the presentation
4. Ways that small schools could benefit from working in a cluster

Workshop Presenters

Mary Curley

Having graduated from Mary Immaculate College, Mary began her teaching career in Sixmilebridge NS Co. Clare before becoming a Teaching Principal in Doora NS, Co. Clare. Mary was appointed as Cluster Co-ordinator for the Gort Area, sponsored by INTO when the Small Schools Project was announced in 2021.

Throughout her teaching career, Mary had extensive involvement with INTO serving as Staff Representative, Branch and District Chairperson, and also Secretary for District XI.

The Small Schools Project is a very exciting, innovative project and Mary, with the five schools in the cluster are delighted to be involved.

Marion Fahey

Marion has been teaching in small rural school settings for most of her teaching career and is passionate about the survival and sustainability of our small schools.

She has worked as class teacher, SET and as a teaching principal for 16 years.

She is now CAO in a Small Schools Pilot Project with Gort Cluster. This project involves five small schools working together; for planning, admin and professional development, and it is going from strength to strength.

In her spare time Marion enjoys sea swimming, kayaking, snorkelling and heading away in her campervan.