



COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH
MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



Comhdháil ar Oideachas Speisialta 2019

Inclusion - a continuum of support

....and a continuum of endless possibilities



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Perspective ?



Brief outline of me...

- Post-primary Teacher
(1987-2004)
- Cigire for Gaeilge Post-Primary
(2004-2006)
- Cigire for SEN
(2006-2016)
- Head of School MIC Post-Primary
(2016-)



MIC THURLES



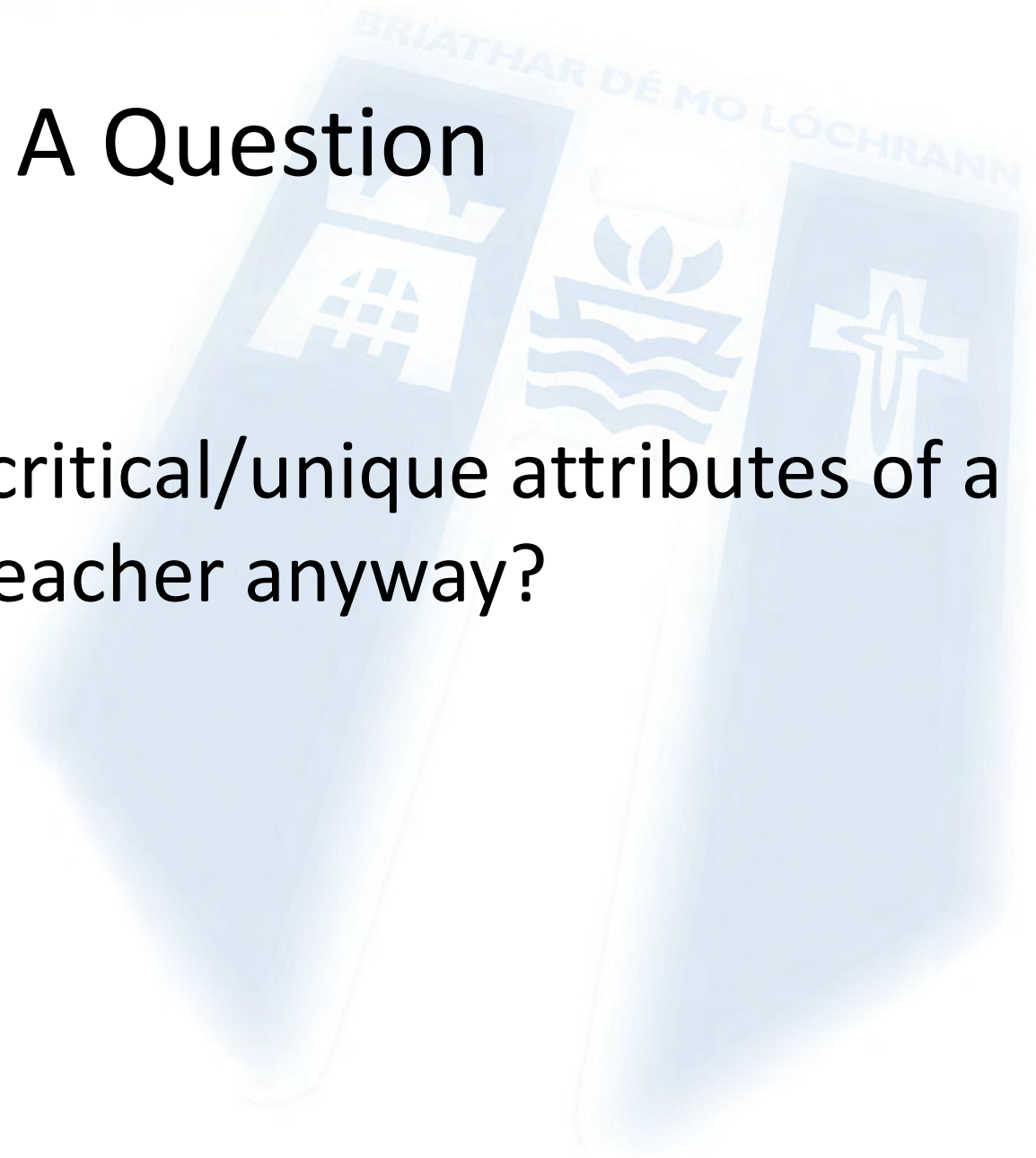
“Support you to be the teacher you want to be
and challenge you to be the teacher you may
need to be”.

Centrality of the teacher



A Question

What are the critical/unique attributes of a teacher anyway?



Critical attributes of a teacher

SIDE A

- Caring
- Patient
- Understanding
- Passionate
- Committed
- Dedicated
- Professional
- Life long learner
-

REFLECTIVE EVEN!!!



Critical attributes of a teacher

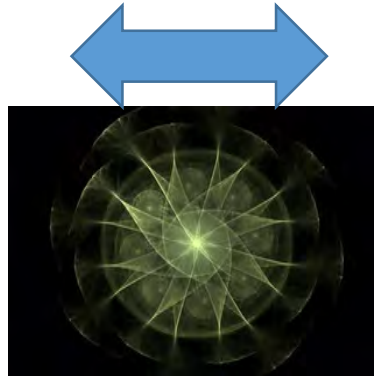
SIDE B

- Understands learning, teaching and assessment
- Differentiates instruction and feedback
- Integrates a range of knowledge, skills and values
ie classroom management
- Knows content and pedagogical content
- Frames and distributes questions intentionally
- Collaborates intentionally through pedagogy with others
- ...

Critical attributes of a teacher

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- Collaborates with pedagogy...

Inclusive Education: Who are we talking about?

- Students with learning disabilities
 - Students from socio-economic disadvantage
 - Students with learning difficulties
 - Students who are exceptionally able and gifted
 - Students with transitory needs
 - Students with other issues which impact on their (and others) learning...
-
- ...ANY STUDENT AT RISK OF NOT LEARNING?

How might we achieve inclusive learning in our schools and classrooms?

- School improvement is closely linked to inclusive learning
- School improvement is itself a continuum of actions
- School improvement is linked to professional experimentation
- School improvement depends on work-place learning
- School improvement is measured in multiple ways
- School improvement is both a private and a collaborative exercise

The challenge of leading...



The real role of leadership in education... is not and should not be command and control. The real role of leadership is climate control, creating a climate of possibility.

— *Ken Robinson* —

AZ QUOTES

Challenge of leading inclusive learning

- We resource in prose we teach in poetry!!!
- Learning needs over diagnosis
- Special classes and ISAs (SNAs)
- School profile as well as individuals (Complex needs)
- Fixed and transitory needs
- Cognitive and socio-emotional
- Cohesion over fragmentation

8 possibilities

1. Deeper primary to post-primary transitioning
2. Effective Team teaching
3. Recalibration of access to professional learning
4. Maximising and revisiting roles of ITEs and NQTs
5. Teaching and learning roles for middle leadership
6. Use SSE process and LAOS to account for hours but also account for impact – ownership of outcomes
7. IEPs for teachers? – Professional Learning Plans
8. Have a growth mind set for all in school





ESSENTIAL FOR SOME
GOOD FOR ALL
Hargreaves & Braun,
2012

Celebrating Successes



**Applications
for showcases
and workshops
now open!**

feilte
Sharing Teaching,
Connecting Learning
27-28 September 2019
NUI Galway

The image is a composite. On the left, a blue banner contains the text 'Applications for showcases and workshops now open!' in bold black font. To its right is a dark blue rounded rectangle with the 'feilte' logo in white script, followed by the event details: 'Sharing Teaching, Connecting Learning', '27-28 September 2019', and 'NUI Galway'. On the right side of the banner is a photograph of an older man with white hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie, smiling as he speaks at a wooden podium. A microphone is positioned in front of him. The background of the photo shows a blurred 'feilte' logo.

Sharing stories

Teachers are professionals and need information about practice that they can use to make decisions; they do not need to be told what to do. – Thomas Good 2017

...and remember

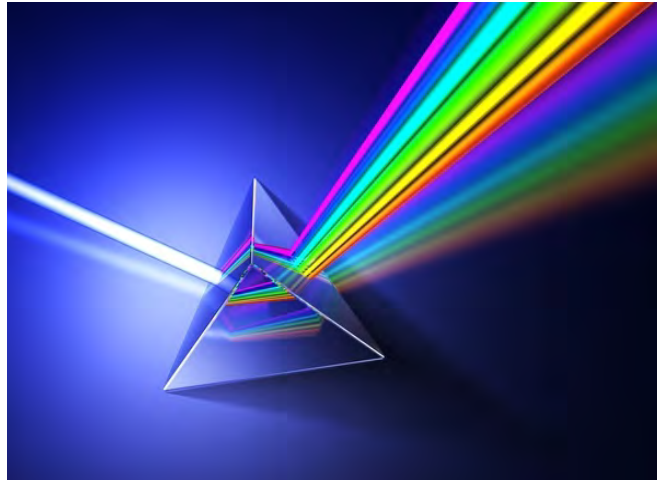
You are what is Special in Education

2018



1973





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Do come and visit us...

