



Dedicated to better learning

Workshops



Saturday morning, 9.30am and 10.40am

These workshops will be booked at registration on Friday, 29 September on a first come first served basis.

Workshop 1: Communication for Leaders – The ‘X’ and ‘Y’ Factors

As communication is at the heart of the work of school leaders, this workshop is designed to enhance school leaders’ communication within the domains of both verbal and non-verbal communication. With ‘the emotional geographies’ of a school community setting the backdrop, the seminar examines how leaders communicate in schools from a number of angles which includes ‘active listening’, giving presentations and nonverbal communication. It provides practical ideas and suggestions on how a leader can develop his/her day-to-day practices within the intense and often diverse context of school communication. As such, the seminar endeavours to ‘audit’ and ‘equip’ each participant with ‘communication awareness’ in order to increase their efficacy as communicators.

Workshop Presenter

John White

Dr John White works as an Assistant Professor in the School of Policy and Practice on the St. Patrick’s Campus of DCU. He has worked as Director of Professional Placement and now works as Director of the DCU Changemaker Schools’ Network. He also works on both undergraduate and post-graduate education programmes.

He has worked as a primary teacher, primary school principal and primary school inspector. His research interests include human communication (with a specific focus on nonverbal communication), classroom communication, arts-based research, mathematics education, narrative inquiry, changemaker practices, embodied cognition, science education and primary school leadership.

He is internationally published and has written chapters on topics such as ‘*The Nonverbal Communication of Hands*’ and ‘*Love Signals and the Reproductive Force*’.

His current book, in writing, is entitled - ‘*Nonverbal Steps to the Origin of Language*’ and he has co-authored two books about nonverbal communication: ‘*The Classroom X –Factor: The Power of Body Language and Nonverbal Communication in Teaching*’ (Rutledge, 2011); and ‘*The Rutledge Dictionary of Nonverbal Communication*’ (2021).

Workshop 2: HIP Psychology

The philosophy at HIP Psychology is to deliver enjoyable and engaging experiences where participants take away robust, practical strategies to add value to their personal and professional



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lives. This interactive workshop will focus on enhancing resilience and will achieve this and much, much, more.

The workshop will get to the core of what exactly resilience is and how you can embed it within your school culture. It will explore techniques to enhance resilience levels by integrating research with examples of best practices in schools which HIP Psychology has worked with.

It will look beyond the school setting for inspiration, gaining insights from figures such as Jacinda Ardern and Sir Bruce Forsyth.

The workshop will explore the following three core themes:

- 'Hunt The Good'
- 'Together Stronger'
- 'Keep Your Table Stable'

Workshop Presenter

Cormac Venney

Cormac's primary school sports coaching role revealed a need to assist children with emotional and behavioural needs and this led him to pursue a Master's degree in Psychology and upskilling in the USA, resulting in the birth of HIP Psychology.

HIP supports pupils across an array of areas including well-being, anti-bullying, anxiety and emotional growth. In the last two years, HIP has supported schools in the North of Ireland, conducting workshops for staff, parents and pupils.

HIP will launch Ireland-wide in 2023 and will also bring their 'Live Online Megathon Model,' enabling HIP to extend support to pupils and staff across Ireland.

Beyond HIP, Cormac has served as sport psychology support for Ulster Rugby (2015-2020) and worked with elite athletes in various sports.

In his personal life, Cormac coaches his local under-13 GAA team and performs improvisation comedy.

Workshop 3: Leading DEIS planning through distributed leadership

This workshop is suitable for all DEIS school contexts. The workshop will focus on sustainable leadership approaches to the DEIS planning process. Effective leadership practices will be explored for each step of the six-step SSE process in relation to DEIS planning. There will be a particular focus on how school leaders can keep this process both manageable and impactful.

Workshop Presenters

Kate Liston, Oide (previously PDST)

Kate Liston is a primary Deputy Principal on secondment from St. Clare's Primary School, Harold's Cross, Dublin. She joined the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) Leadership Team as an advisor in January 2020. In her time as an Advisor with the Leadership Team, Kate was involved in the design and facilitation of PDST Leadership Programmes and



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DEIS Seminars. She also supported many schools in the development of their School Improvement Plans, DEIS Plans and Leadership Teams.

Kate was recently appointed to the role of Senior Leader for Primary Inclusive Education in Oide.

Adrienne Darby, Oide (previously PDST)

Adrienne Darby is a primary school Principal on secondment from St. Francis Xavier Senior School in Dublin 15. Adrienne has 14 years leadership experience both as a Teaching Principal and as an Administrative Principal. During her time as principal, Adrienne has delivered workshops to school leaders and teachers in Dublin West and Navan Education Centres. She joined the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) Leadership Team last year and has been involved in the design and delivery of a cross section of their Leadership Programmes. Over the past year, Adrienne provided school support to DEIS schools in both urban and rural contexts. Adrienne is currently on the design team of the Forbairt Programme for experienced school leaders.

Workshop 4: Poverty and the Inclusive School

This interactive workshop will provide a space for participants to reflect upon the impact poverty has on education. It will examine the impact of poverty on children's capability to participate in school, and discuss the role of equity, inclusivity, and social justice in school. The aim of the workshop is to allow learners reflect on their current definitions of success, and how success affects the inclusive practice of schools.

Questions will include:

- Reflections on poverty
- How do we define success as a leader, as a school and as a teacher?
- Care or nurture is overlooked in favour of metrics; can we have both and what does that look like?
- What is my view of success and how is it measured?

Workshop Presenter

Dr Katriona O'Sullivan

Dr Katriona O'Sullivan is a psychologist and memoirist and is Senior Lecturer in the Assisting Living & Learning Institute, Department of Psychology, Maynooth University. She is the Principal Investigator on the [STEM Passport for Inclusion project](#), featured recently on RTE [Changemaker series](#). She has held research grants from the Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland leading an initiative to tackle digital inequality in education. She also successfully led the largest HEA PATH funded programme entitled *Turn to Teaching* which focused on diversifying teacher education. She has been invited speaker at the World Education Forum, the European Gender Action Workshop on Women and Digitalization and most recently at the UN gender equality workshop.

Katriona has worked with Irish policy makers to develop policies around education and inclusion. She has published research on equality, gender, education, inclusion and STEM. Her first book, *Poor*, debuted at #1 on the Irish Non-Fiction bestseller list. The book, a memoir of growing up in

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extreme poverty, describes the far-reaching impact of childhood poverty. As one of five children in a home shaped by her parents' heroin addiction, Katriona's story chronicles her journey from poverty, teenage pregnancy, homelessness to graduating with a PhD from Trinity College, Dublin and becoming an award-winning lecturer whose work challenges barriers to education.

Workshop 5: Developing Relationship Skills through our emotional intelligence & coaching skills

This workshop will briefly explore the background of Emotional Intelligence and focus on one of the competencies in the ECR – Emotional Capital Report - **Relationship Skills**. When this skill is developed and strengthened in leaders, it is proven to support and drive a highly effective team.

The workshop will explore 'Relationship Skills' in highly effective teams and the ways Principals and Deputy Principals already do this and how you can develop these skills to strengthen your team. It will explore how the coaching skills of listening; building rapport and being non-judgemental can support the strengthening of Relationship Skills. The aim is for each person to come away with some action steps personal to them.

Workshop Presenter

Jennifer Barron

Jennifer is a Teaching Principal, with 15 years' experience, at Graignamanagh Boys' NS, Kilkenny. She holds a Diploma in Life & Executive Coaching from Coach Academy Plus and is a member of Association of Coaching. Jennifer also has an interest in Emotional Intelligence in Leadership and is a certified practitioner with RocheMartin in Emotional Capital Report (ECR/ECR 360). She also works as a part-time tutor with Coach Academy Plus on their Diploma in Coaching Practice & Ethics.

Jennifer has enjoyed developing her coaching skillset over the past number of years and exploring ways to build a coaching culture within the school environment in order to make leadership roles more sustainable.

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



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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.

Workshop 7: The SER Process, a methodology of consultation and review; NCSE developments and strategic direction

A review of the SER process impacting school SNA deployment nationwide. This workshop presents a new model of methodology and partnership by NCSE in working with schools in meeting the care needs of students.

The model represents a strategic shift in NCSE engagement with the diverse voices of school leaders and stakeholders in meeting the complex needs of young people with additional needs in our schools.

NCSE CEO John Kearney and Helen Walsh, Head of Inclusion and Support Services will outline new developments in NCSE for 23/24 in supporting school communities further inclusive practice across the sector.

Workshop Presenter

Helen Walsh, NCSE

Helen is the current head of Inclusion of Education Support Services in the NCSE.



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Helen worked initially as a subject and resource special education teacher in the community training workshop, post primary and special school sectors. She completed her Masters in Psychology in Glasgow University, Scotland in 2002. She returned to Ireland to work in St. John's education sector before commencing her work as a SENO with the NCSE in 2004. Helen moved into NCSE management in 2018 as a Team Manager for the Dublin North Team, and since October 2022 has taken up the role of Head of Inclusion and Education Support Service and membership of the senior executive in NCSE.