



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council
for Special Education

NCSE RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2024

Session 2 NCSE Practice-Based Research Pilot Programme - Panel Discussion

Bios

Jennifer Doran, Head of Finance, Governance and Research, NCSE

Jennifer Doran is the Head of Finance, Governance and Research in the NCSE. Jennifer will outline the origins of the new NCSE Practice-Based Research Pilot Programme and explain the intended benefits of this initiative and how it will complement the existing extensive NCSE research programme.

Dr Kevin Cahill, Senior Lecturer in School of Education, University College Cork

Kevin Cahill is a Senior Lecturer in Education in the School of Education at University College Cork. Kevin and his colleague Dr. Dan O’Sullivan are the Practice Based Research pilot programme leads in UCC. This involves working with and supporting four schools in the Cork region: Scoil Naomh Eltin, Kinsale; Walterstown NS, Cobh; Carrigaline Community School and Le Chéile secondary school, Ballincollig. All the schools clustered with UCC are working collaboratively researching the same topic “INclusive Classrooms for Learning and Achievement in School Settings: Accomplished Inclusive Learning Environments for students with Additional Educational Needs (INCLASS)”. The aim of INCLASS is to develop better understandings of how to meet the needs of children with Additional Education Needs across school types.

Éilis Dillon, principal in St Cecilia’s Special School, Sligo

Éilis Dillon is principal in St Cecilia’s Special School, Sligo for students between 4 to 18 years old. Éilis is clustered with St Angela’s College, Atlantic Technological University, Sligo. The aim of this research is to ensure home school communication is as effective as possible by including all parent voices. This research includes a focus on hard-to-reach groups and hidden voices. This topic was identified through the school self-evaluation system and is underpinned by the belief that all parent voices are included and heard.

Ann O'Regan, Additional Needs Coordinator in Carrigaline Community School, Cork

Ann O'Regan is an Additional Needs Coordinator with Carrigaline Community School, Cork and Ann is clustered with the School of Education, University College Cork. Ann's research is aiming to identify best practice for in-class supports. She is focusing on finding both the most effective in-class supports as well as the challenges that are encountered delivering these supports. The participants in this research are teachers and SNAs who are engaging with in-class supports.

Laura Miskella, post-primary teacher in Ramsgrange Community School, Wexford

Laura Miskella is a post-primary teacher in Ramsgrange Community School, Wexford. Laura is clustered with the School of Inclusive & Special Education, Dublin City University. Laura's research is aiming to enhance the learner experience of first year students who have literacy difficulties through teacher implementation of inclusive classroom strategies. Laura's research is focusing on teaching strategies and resources to support differentiation in the (mainstream) classroom. She is also collating a handbook of strategies, maps and organisers as a resource for teachers to use.