

Keynote Speakers



Dr Anne Dolan, Mary Immaculate College

Anne is an associate lecturer in primary geography with the Department of Learning, Society and Religious Education in Mary Immaculate College, Ireland. She is the author/editor of 'Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals to Young Citizens: A focus on hope, respect, empathy and advocacy' (published by Routledge in 2024), *Teaching Climate Change in Primary Schools: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (published by Routledge in 2022), *Powerful Primary Geography: A Toolkit for 21st Century Learning* (published by Routledge in 2020) and *You, Me and Diversity: Picturebooks for Teaching Development and Intercultural Education* (published by Trentham Books/IOE Press in 2014).

Anne is particularly interested in Education for Sustainability and Global Citizenship Education. She is the director of the M.Ed. in Education for Sustainability and Global Citizenship in Mary Immaculate College.






Deirdre Hodson, European Commission



Deirdre works with the school education team at the European Commission's Department for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture in Brussels. She works on sustainability in school education and runs the European Commission's working group on learning for sustainability.

Deirdre has also worked for a number of years in digital education. She was part of the team that drafted the Commission's Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027) and she helped create the free online SELFIE tools to help schools and teachers reflect on how they are using technology for teaching and learning. Deirdre studied at Trinity College Dublin, Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Grenoble, the College of Europe, Bruges and more recently she completed her MSc on Digital Education with the University of Edinburgh.

Friday afternoon presenters from Mary Immaculate College

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|  <p>Ellen McCluskey</p> | <p>Ellen McCloskey graduated from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick in 2021 with a Bachelor of Education in Primary Teaching, and recently completed a Masters of Education in Sustainability and Global Citizenship at MIC.</p> <p>Ellen's research is entitled <i>The Impact of a Human Rights Education Continuous Professional Development Intervention on Teachers' Planning for and Practice of Human Rights Education in an Irish Primary School</i> and pertains to supporting lower primary school teachers (Junior Infants-1st Class) in this area.</p> |
|  <p>Rebecca Banville</p> | <p>Rebecca Banville is primary school teacher from Wexford. She holds a Bachelor of Education and Master of Education in Education for Sustainability and Global Citizenship from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. She was awarded the Peadar Cremin Fellowship in 2022 for achievement in Education Research and the dissertation at undergraduate level.</p> <p>Rebecca's research focused on nature-based learning, exploring how the natural environment can be utilised as a resource to support geography education within rural and urban primary schools. The research she will present is entitled <i>The utilisation of the natural environment as a resource when teaching geography at primary level</i>, and examines how facilitating learning in natural settings, through fieldwork, school gardens and play, can foster a deeper connection to nature and promote environmental stewardship amongst primary school pupils.</p> |
|  <p>Shireen Rountree</p> | <p>The title of Shireen's presentation is <i>Creative Approaches to Teaching Climate Change</i>. Shireen holds a B.Ed (Hons) from Trinity College Dublin and is currently in the second year of a Master's in Education for Sustainability and Global Citizenship at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.</p> <p>Shireen has held the role of teaching Principal of Ballymoney National School in Ballineen, Co Cork, for the past 17 years, teaching multigrade class of 3rd to 6th class students. In 2022, Ballymoney NS was recognized as a DCU Changemaker School, chosen for its focus on creativity and community engagement. That same year they won 'Best in County' in the Muintir na Tire School Garden Competition. Most recently, in October 2024, the school was one of just three globally to receive the 'Creativity in Schools Award' at the Creativity in Education Summit in Paris. Ballymoney NS is a small rural school committed to outdoor education, creativity, and active learning.</p> |

Workshop Presenters

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|  <p>Michelle Stowe Connect RP</p> <p>McClure II</p> | <p>Michelle is an educator at heart and the founder and director of Connect RP. In her role she, along with her team, support schools and organisations in using RP as a vehicle to enhance a relational school culture through mentoring, resourcing and measuring the impact of an RP journey that puts values, people and relationships at the heart of community and effective teaching and learning.</p> <p>Check out http://www.connectrp.ie to find out more.</p> | <p>Restorative Practice - Building Relationships through Positive Communication</p> <p>In this workshop we will look at living the key tenets of the restorative philosophy and explore the impact on relational thinking, processes and language to enhance teacher resilience and wellbeing. Participants will leave with some practical tools to bring to life on their return to school ...and beyond!</p> |
|  <p>Nico Lorenzutti</p> <p>TESTEd</p> <p>McCarthy I</p> | <p>Nico Lorenzutti has over 25 years of experience as a teacher, teacher trainer, and learning designer in various international contexts. He has designed and delivered bespoke training courses for pre-service and in-service teachers across Europe, Asia, and Africa. A qualified Lego Serious Play (LSP) facilitator, Nico has conducted workshops for both educational institutions and industry.</p> <p>Among his most recent collaborations is the Erasmus-funded TESTEd project, a pan-European initiative designing a pre-service syllabus to embed Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and other cross-cutting issues into pre-service teaching curricula.</p> | <p>Exploring ESD Skills Through LEGO Serious Play: A Workshop for Primary School Teachers</p> <p>Unlock the power of play in sustainable education! This innovative workshop uses LEGO Serious Play methodology to help primary school teachers dive deep into Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) skills.</p> <p>What to expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on exploration of ESD concepts using LEGO bricks • Creative problem-solving and idea generation • Collaborative learning with fellow educators • Practical strategies for implementing ESD in your classroom <p>Join us to build a sustainable future, one brick at a time. No prior LEGO experience necessary. All materials provided.</p> |



Paul O'Donnell
Wild Schools
McCarthy II

Paul is principal of St. Patrick's N.S., Slane, Co. Meath. The school in which he works has a long tradition of involvement with outdoor learning.

Paul studied primary teaching in Dublin City University and was recently awarded a Masters in Education Leadership with Maynooth University, completing a final year thesis on the area of geographic fieldwork.

He has facilitated many professional development courses nationwide on bringing teaching and learning outdoors. Paul also currently lectures part time in Initial Teacher Education in Froebel, Maynooth. He is also a member of the NCCA development group for the proposed new subject area, Social and Environmental Education (SEE). Paul is the author of *Wild Teaching - Cross-curricular Lessons Outdoors for Agoraphobic Teachers*, published by Meath Co. Council and The Heritage Council. It has recently been reprinted due to popular demand.

Environmental Sustainability in Education: New eyes to see

The content of this workshop will include:

- Why using the outdoors as a location and resource for teaching and learning has never been so relevant
- Underpinning research & education policy
- How to teach simple cross-curricular lessons outdoors with primary school classes and stay sane
- Sample lessons and ideas for a range of curricular subjects for all primary class levels
- Ideas for developing outdoor spaces in school grounds

All participants will receive a copy of the presentation as well as sample lesson plans, accompanying planning notes, online links and editable SESE trails.



Sarah O'Brien
Jigsaw
Oscar Wilde

Sarah O'Brien has worked with Jigsaw for five years as a Youth and Community Engagement Worker supporting the North Dublin area. Her work focuses on promoting mental health supports for young people and empowering the adults around them.

She looks forward to sharing her knowledge and experience in mental health promotion. Sarah is passionate about creating supportive environments where young people have the right support, no matter what they are going through.

The workshop will draw on Sarah's experience of mental health promotion and advocacy to provide practical techniques and strategies for managing stress and promoting personal well-being.

Self-Care for Teachers

This workshop will explore the importance of self-care for teachers. It will increase participants' understanding of key self-care concepts, including self-compassion, and explore the challenges to supporting self-care practice.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore the importance of boundaries in self-care and reflect on their own self-care practices. They will also identify supports available to them and where/how to access further information and training.



Maurice Hurley



Triona Collins

Global Citizenship Schools

Selskar @ 9.30am

Maurice Hurley is the National Coordinator of Global Citizenship School. GCS is a voluntary group that works through the INTO network promoting Global Citizenship Education (GCE).

Maurice was a primary teacher for many years and also worked as a Visiting Teacher for Travellers and a Principal teacher in Le Chéile ETNS and Tyrrelstown ETNS. He has facilitated teacher CPD courses and is a regular attendee at INTO conferences and annual Congress.

Triona Collins is a Social Media Content Creator. Triona is a Waterford native with a background in Graphic Design, having completed her BA at the Limerick School of Art and Design in 2019. Triona has worked professionally in social media since 2021 with the Joe Media Group, making food and cultural content with Lovin Dublin and Lovin.ie and content spanning all areas relating to women with Her.ie. She has also worked alongside the INTO G.C.S. on the recent One-Minute Video Global Goals project which included video making in Áras an Uachtaráin.

Stranger Danger: An inclusive classroom in a partially racist society!

This workshop offers a practical expression of global citizenship in action in your classroom, along with supports and insights into taking part in a One-Minute Video project. The aim of which is to share good practice across the Island of Ireland from teacher to teacher via social media.

We certainly live in challenging times with crazy wars, nuclear threats and famine internationally and local racist and anti-immigrant protests, some of which are threatening and dark. There will be a focus on the issues of racism and welcoming the stranger in our workshop with input from you, the workshop participants and practical suggestions and support from the presenters in helping to develop inclusive minded pupils, classrooms, schools and society. Bring your phone for an active workshop!



Claire Glavey
Global Village

Selskar @ 11.15am

Claire Glavey is an Education Officer with Global Village, the strategic partnership for Global Citizenship Education in primary schools between Irish Aid, Dublin City University, Irish National Teachers' Organisation, Irish Primary Principals' Network and Trócaire.

She is a qualified primary school teacher with five years' classroom experience. Before that, she worked on a range of human rights and global citizenship education programmes in formal (primary, post-primary and third level) and non-formal education. This work included resource development, teacher and learner support and research.

Sustaining Teachers and Sustaining Education through Global Citizenship Education

Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is an active and creative educational process to increase awareness and understanding of the world in which we live. It supports learners, in age-appropriate ways, to make connections between their own lives and global justice issues. Participants will explore and discuss key GCE concepts, methodologies and resources for primary school education. Emphasis will be placed on how incorporating global themes into primary teaching and learning can sustain teacher motivation and confidence and can strengthen empathy and interpersonal connections in the classroom.



Aoife Mullen



John Copley

NCCA

Pembroke @ 11.15am

John Copley, Education Officer

John has worked as an Education Officer with the NCCA since 2022 on the draft primary curriculum specification for Social and Environmental Education. He has taught in both Limerick and Vietnam, where he was also a Design Technology Coordinator in his school.

John's involvement with NCCA began nearly a decade ago with the Negotiated Integrated Curriculum pilot initiative, focusing on student voice in curriculum sense-making. He holds a Masters in Education from Mary Immaculate College and an Advanced Diploma in Law and Education from the Honourable Society of King's Inns.

John is passionate about curriculum development and lifelong learning.

Aoife Mullen, Education Officer

Aoife has been working as an Education Officer with the NCCA since January 2023 in the curriculum area of Social and Environmental Education. She worked as a primary school teacher in Co. Louth before joining the INTO in September 2017, firstly as an Intern and then taking up the role of Education Official.

Aoife has a grá for Gaeilge, a keen interest in music and a passion for the outdoors. As a teacher, she was involved in various initiatives such as the Green Flag and Active School Flag programmes as well as coaching school football and hurling teams.

She holds a Masters in Education from Trinity College Dublin and her thesis explored outdoor learning in Irish primary schools. This year Aoife has commenced a Professional Doctorate in Education in Dublin City University and her area of focus is *Education for Sustainable Futures*.

Sustainability in the Social and Environmental Education Curriculum Specification

John Copley and Aoife Mullen are Education Officers with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) working in the area of Social and Environmental Education (SEE).

The curriculum area of Social and Environmental Education comprises History and Geography, also incorporating learning about religions, beliefs and worldviews.

At present, members of the NCCA Primary Team are working on the finalisation of curriculum specifications for the five redeveloped curricular areas which are due to be published in September 2025.

During this workshop, John and Aoife will provide an overview of the curriculum development process and outline the timeline for publication and introduction of the specification in primary and special schools. The presentation will cover the following content:

- the rationale for Social and Environmental Education
- a summary of key research underpinning the curriculum specification for Social and Environmental Education
- learning, teaching and assessment in Social and Environmental Education
- sustainability within the Social and Environmental Education specification.

Workshop Descriptions

| | Name | Title | Description |
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| 1 | Michelle Stowe Connect RP McClure II | Restorative Practice - Building Relationships through Positive Communication | In this workshop we will look at living the key tenets of the restorative philosophy and explore the impact on relational thinking, processes and language to enhance teacher resilience and wellbeing. Participants will leave with some practical tools to bring to life on their return to school ...and beyond! |
| 2 | Paul O'Donnell Wild Schools McCarthy II | Environmental Sustainability in Education: New eyes to see | <p>The content of this workshop will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why using the outdoors as a location and resource for teaching and learning has never been so relevant. • Underpinning research & education policy. • How to teach simple cross-curricular lessons outdoors with primary school classes and stay sane. • Sample lessons and ideas for a range of curricular subjects for all primary class levels. • Ideas for developing outdoor spaces in school grounds. <p>All participants will receive a copy of the presentation as well as sample lesson plans, accompanying planning notes, online links and editable SESE trails.</p> |
| 3 | Sarah O'Brien Jigsaw Oscar Wilde | Self-Care for Teachers | This workshop will explore the importance of self-care for teachers. It will increase participants' understanding of key self-care concepts, including self-compassion, and explore the challenges to supporting self-care practice. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the importance of boundaries in self-care and reflect on their own self-care practices. They will also identify supports available to them and where/how to access further information and training |
| 4 | Nico Lorenzutti TESTED McCarthy I | Exploring ESD Skills Through LEGO Serious Play: A Workshop for Primary School Teachers | <p>Unlock the power of play in sustainable education! This innovative workshop uses LEGO Serious Play methodology to help primary school teachers dive deep into Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) skills.</p> <p>What to Expect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on exploration of ESD concepts using LEGO bricks • Creative problem-solving and idea generation • Collaborative learning with fellow educators • Practical strategies for implementing ESD in your classroom <p>Join us to build a sustainable future, one brick at a time. No prior LEGO experience necessary. All materials provided.</p> |

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| 5 | Aoife Mullen/John Copley NCCA Pembroke @ 11.15am | Sustainability in the Social and Environmental Education Curriculum Specification | During this workshop, John and Aoife will provide an overview of the curriculum development process and outline the timeline for publication and introduction of the specification in primary and special schools. The presentation will cover the following content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rationale for Social and Environmental Education • a summary of key research underpinning the curriculum specification for Social and Environmental Education • learning, teaching and assessment in Social and Environmental Education sustainability within the Social and Environmental Education specification. |
| 6 | Maurice Hurley / Triona Collins Global Citizenship Schools Selskar @ 9.30am | Stranger Danger: An inclusive classroom in a partially racist society! | <p>This workshop offers a practical expression of global citizenship in action in your classroom, along with supports and insights into taking part in a One-Minute Video project. The aim of which is to share good practice across the Island of Ireland from teacher to teacher via social media.</p> <p>We certainly live in challenging times with crazy wars, nuclear threats and famine internationally and local racist and anti-immigrant protests, some of which are threatening and dark. There will be a focus on the issues of racism and welcoming the stranger in our workshop with input from you, the workshop participants and practical suggestions and support from the presenters in helping to develop inclusive minded pupils, classrooms, schools and society. Bring your phone for an active workshop!</p> |
| 7 | Claire Glavey Global Village Selskar @ 11.15am | Sustaining Teachers and Sustaining Education through Global Citizenship Education | Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is an active and creative educational process to increase awareness and understanding of the world in which we live. It supports learners, in age-appropriate ways, to make connections between their own lives and global justice issues. Participants will explore and discuss key GCE concepts, methodologies and resources for primary school education. Emphasis will be placed on how incorporating global themes into primary teaching and learning can sustain teacher motivation and confidence and can strengthen empathy and interpersonal connections in the classroom. |