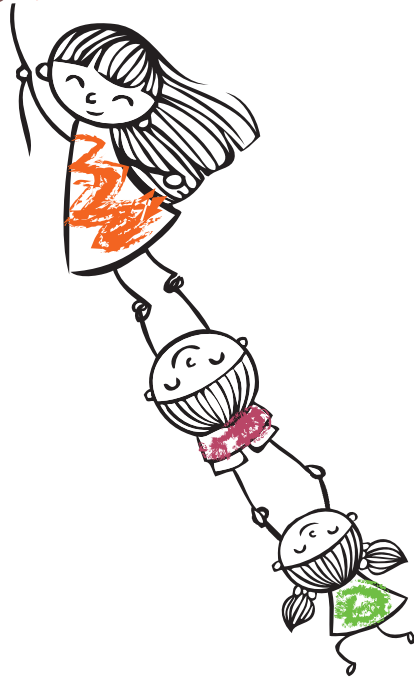




RAISING STUDENT VOICES



Alexander Hotel, Dublin 2

25-26 November 2016

#EthicalEd2016

Educate Together



**Ethical Education
Conference 2016**

Welcome to Educate Together's Second Annual Ethical Education Conference

Ethical Education is a key component of the Educate Together model. The examination of morals and values, equality and justice, beliefs and sustainability within an ethical framework offers students the opportunity to meaningfully and critically reflect upon the world around them. Central to this reflection is the concept of activation, of asserting opinions and of making changes, all of which begins with the student voice.

Our conference this year, with its theme of Raising Student Voices, affirms the right of students to be active participants in their own education. Our agenda includes talks by internationally renowned speakers within the field of children's rights as well as student and teacher workshops.

We hope to engender debate and discussion, discourse and dialogue. With this in mind, we aspire towards raising the voices of all conference participants!

We are delighted that Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton, T.D. will launch this year's conference. We would also like to thank all our sponsors and delegates.

Fionnuala Ward,
Primary Education Officer

Dr. Laura Dooley,
Second Level Education Officer

Sandra Irwin-Gowran,
Education & Support Programme Manager



Agenda

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25

- 3.00 - 4.30 **Student Council workshop for second-level students**
- 4.45- 5.45 **#StudentMeet**
- 6.00 - 6.30 **Address by the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD**
- 6.30 - 8.00 **Keynote Address**
Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children
Hearing the Student's Voice – Why Does It Scare Us So Much?
- 8.30 **Conference Dinner**

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26

- 9.30 -11.00 **#TeachMeet**
*Simon Lewis, Carlow ETNS,
Rozz Lewis, Portlaoise ETNS*
- 11.00 - 11.30 **Tea / Coffee Break**
- 11.30 - 1.00 **Keynote Address**
*Prof Laura Lundy,
Director, Centre for Children's Rights
Queen's University Belfast*
- 1.00 - 2.00 **Lunch**
- 2.00 - 3.30 **Workshop 1 (5 choices)**
- 3.40- 5.10 **Workshop 2 (5 choices)**
- 5.10 - 5.30 **Conference Wrap-up and Raffle**

Workshops

- 1** **Joanna Siewierska**
Irish Second-level Students' Union
(Aston Suite 1)
Empowering Children and Young People in Primary and Post-Primary Student Councils
- 2** **Dr Laura Dooley**
Educate Together (Aston Suite 2)
Enhancing Student-Centred Learning Using Children's Literature
- 3** **Anne O'Donnell**
Department of Children and Youth Affairs (Aston Suite 3)
Children are the Citizens of Today and not Just the Adults of Tomorrow
Sponsored by MediaScene
- 4** **Dr Shane Bergin**
UCD (Annesley Suite - upstairs)
Student-led Learning – Lessons from Science for All
Sponsored by The Educational Company of Ireland
- 5** **Stephen Graham**
Literacy Consultant for New South Wales, Australia (Ascot Suite - upstairs)
Facilitating Student Voices: Linking Oral Language and Writing
Sponsored by Folens

Educate Together wishes to acknowledge the support of:

Folens; The Educational Company of Ireland; Media Scene; Compupac IT; The Heritage Council, The Our World Irish Aid Awards; Carambola; Eversheds.



#EthicalEd2016 @EducateTogether

Conference Speakers



Dr Niall Muldoon
Ombudsman for Children

Niall is Ireland's Ombudsman for Children, having been appointed in February 2015 by President Michael D. Higgins. As Ombudsman for Children, Niall's responsibilities include promoting the rights and welfare of children and young people up to the age of 18 years living in Ireland and dealing with complaints made by or for children and young people about the actions of public bodies. Prior to his appointment as Ombudsman for Children, Niall was Director of Investigations with the Office. Niall is a registered counselling and clinical psychologist and he has worked in the area of child protection for almost 20 years working with children, adults and families affected by sexual and other abuses. Niall also worked within the field of Intellectual Disability and completed his Masters on the Development of a Relationship and Sexuality Programme for Adults with Intellectual Disability.

Hearing the Student's Voice – Why Does It Scare Us So Much?

This talk will describe the work of the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) in highlighting and protecting the rights of children in Ireland. Three key rights from the UN Convention on the Rights of Children will be discussed; respect for the views of the child (Article 3); Making the Best Interest of the Child the primary consideration when making a decision relating to them (Article 12) and that no child should be discriminated against on any grounds (Article 2)

The main emphasis of the talk will be on the realm of education but will also refer to other areas of public services which interact with children – these range from Oberstown Detention Campus to Tusla to Local Authority Housing Sections to CAMHS and Hospitals. Niall will acknowledge the difficulties in hearing the voice of the child across Public Bodies and suggest a number of routes for positive change.



Prof Laura Lundy
Director, Centre for
Children's Rights Queen's
University Belfast

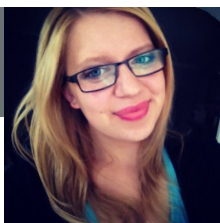
Professor Laura Lundy is Professor of Education Law and Children's Rights and the Director of the Centre for Children's Rights at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Her expertise is in law and children's rights, with a particular focus on children's education rights and right to participate in decision-making. Her 2007 paper conceptualising Article 12 of the UNCRC is one of the most highly cited academic papers on children's rights and the model of participation it proposes (based on four key concepts: Space, Voice, Audience and Influence) has been used globally by policy makers and practitioners. She has extensive practical experience of rights-based, participatory research and consultation with children of all ages and has provided training and consultancy to a range of international organisations including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Council of Europe and Child Rights Connect.

Children's rights, equity and education

This presentation will look at core principles of children's standards and their implications for children's education. It will address their right of equal access to education; to an education that affirms their own identity and that of their parents; their right to freedom of conscience; and their right to be heard.

Conference Workshops

Workshop 1



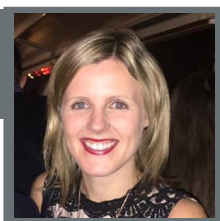
Joanna Siewierska is honorary President of the Irish Second-level Students' Union where she also previously occupied the role of Deputy President and Education Officer. Joanna is a student of Law and Social Justice at UCD and has a keen interest in education, student rights' and integration.

Empowering Children and Young People in Primary and Post-Primary Student Councils

This workshop will focus on building teacher capacity to support and enhance students' participation in student councils. The session will be divided into three parts:

- Democracy in a school - What is a democratic student council; what is a democratic school? - What are the barriers to democracy in school, how can they be overcome?
- Realising our voice - What is ISSU, what is our vision and what work do we do to achieve it?
- Culture and Education for Democratic Citizenship - How can schools support education for democratic citizenship, how can student councils be a tool in this?

Workshop 2



Laura Dooley has been working with Educate Together since November 2015 as the Second-level Education Officer. As part of this role, Laura is responsible for developing the Ethical Education Curriculum and providing support to teachers at second-level. Prior to working with Educate Together Laura completed her PhD in Intercultural Education and Children's Literature at DCU. Laura is a qualified second-level teacher and also holds a Masters in Comparative Literature.

Enhancing Student-Centred Learning Using Children's Literature

This workshop will outline an approach to teaching that places students at the centre of the learning experience. Teachers will be introduced to a teaching methodology that enhances students' critical thinking and analysis skills through the use of practical methods adapted from the literary theories of Reader Response and Imagology (the study of national stereotypes in literature) and applied to children's literature. The method has been tested with students and was shown to be successful in enhancing students' intercultural understanding and awareness making it suitable for use particularly, in Ethical Education. During this practical session, teachers will:

- Be introduced to Reader Response Theory and Imagology
- Learn how to apply these in a practical way with students
- Work in groups to use the approach to critically analyse selected children's literature texts

Conference Workshops

Workshop 3

Anne O'Donnell is Head of Citizen Participation in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The DCYA takes the lead national role in ensuring that children and young people under the age of 18 have a voice in the design, delivery and monitoring of services and policies that affect their individual and collective lives, at national and local level. Anne started her working life as a second-level and primary school teacher. She subsequently worked in a number of non-government organisations, including the National Women's Council of Ireland and the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.



Children are the Citizens of Today and not Just the Adults of Tomorrow

The workshop will focus on the fact that children are often perceived only as 'beings in becoming' as opposed to 'beings in the here and now'. The workshop will explore ways of giving children a stronger voice in the school and classroom in the context of their right to a voice in decisions that affect their lives. Children have this right under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and under Ireland's National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-making (2015-2020).

Workshop sponsored by: Media Scene Technology

Workshop 4

Shane Bergin is an assistant professor in science education at UCD's School of Education. Shane's research focuses on teaching and learning in physics – both in formal settings and informal settings. In 2015, Shane received a Provost's Teaching Award (whilst working at Trinity College Dublin) for his work on student-centred learning in the undergraduate physics programme. Shane is the founder of City of Physics – a campaign to spark physics conversations around Dublin based on physics posters, art and projections dotted around the city. This follows DARTofPhysics – a similar campaign on Dublin's DART train – in 2013. Shane received awards for public engagement in science from the European Commission and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for this work.



Student-led Learning – Lessons from Science for All

In this practical workshop, participants will explore elements of student-led learning with a focus on 'peer instruction' and 'problem-based cooperative learning'. Peer instruction actively involves students in the teaching process – they are given multiple-choice concept questions and asked to defend or propose their answer to a small peer-group. A problem-based cooperative learning approach to teaching designed by Shane with colleagues will also be outlined. This approach asks students to, in turn, develop their own approaches to scientific challenges. Participants will be asked to consider how they can apply this approach to their wider working environment. Participants will familiarise themselves with pedagogy, practice and evaluation associated with these methods by acting as students for the duration of the workshop.

Workshop sponsored by: The Educational Company of Ireland (Edco)

Conference Workshops

Workshop 5



Stephen Graham is an educator with a wealth of teaching experience. He has an M.Ed and an MA in Children's Literacy and works as a Literacy Consultant for the NSW (Australia) Department of Education and Training. Stephen worked as both a Deputy Principal and Principal and has a special interest in the areas of Aboriginal literacy and literacy acquisition amongst boys.

Facilitating Student Voices: Linking Oral Language and Writing

If children are to have a clear voice that is heard and respected, they must develop skills in Oral Language. They must also know how to link their oral language to writing. If a child cannot say a text she or he will have great difficulty in writing the text. In this session we will look at explicitly teaching children to construct a persuasive text. We will look at explicitly teaching children to make word, sentence and whole text choices when their purpose is to convince their audience of a point of view. This will be a practical session where educators focus on:

- The importance of oral language development for a purpose
- Identifying the word, sentence and whole text language choices of a persuasive text
- Making direct links between oral language and written text
- Scaffolding children from the oral to the written

Workshop sponsored by: Folens

Teachmeet Facilitators



Simon Lewis is the Principal of Carlow Educate Together. Over the last 15 years, he has given talks and courses to teachers, agencies and businesses in all aspects of ICT in education. He also works with universities and colleges through lecturing and supervising theses. Simon has worked with several agencies to advise on their use of ICT including the NIPT, Educate Together, Hibernia College and INTO. He has also authored and contributed to a number of educational books and magazines and educational software. He blogs at Anseo.net and runs the teacher resource site, Mash.ie.

Rozz Lewis has taught in various settings such as disadvantaged, special school setting, denominational and rural. She was a school principal for 5 years and was delighted to return to teaching in Portlaoise Educate Together. She has trained and worked with the PDST, INTO, NCTE and local Education Centres. She has designed and delivered courses in the area of literacy, educational technology, SPHE, Emotional Intelligence and Visual Arts. She has also worked as a tutor with Hibernia College in the areas of Literacy, Visual Arts and SPHE since 2008.

Conference Sponsors

Thanks to our conference sponsors



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The Educational Company of Ireland (EDCO - Irish Publisher), publishes Primary and Post Primary textbooks, School Books.

ExamCraft delivers high quality Junior and Leaving Certificate mock examination papers and provide a swift and accurate correction service to all secondary schools in Ireland.

Folens is Ireland's leading purveyors of educational content, dedicated to fostering effective and meaningful learning of the Irish curriculum through print and digital resources.

The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest, complements but importantly builds on the work of other state heritage bodies which have primary responsibility for the care of property in state ownership and the designation of protected areas.

Lafayette school photographers make the whole process as simple as possible for your school or pre-school, with full back up support and the best value available.

MediaScene is the sole Irish Distributor for both the MiTouch LED Interactive Flat Panel and also the IQBoard IR touch sensitive and dry wipe interactive whiteboard. We are a specialist educational supplier having over 550 schools and colleges as customers.

The **Irish Aid Our World Awards** seek to enable pupils to learn about the lives of children and their families in developing countries. Pupils as global citizens can play their part by taking part in the Awards and engaging with these issues.

ReCreate is a national social enterprise that takes end of line and surplus stock from businesses and reuses them as arts materials.

Young Social Innovators (YSI) promotes education for social innovation. YSI is about encouraging young people to re-imagine the world and empowering them to bring their vision to life.

YouthConnect is a programme dedicated to raising awareness among young people about issues associated with the working world, both at home and abroad. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) is the apex body of the trade union movement.

ECO-UNESCO is Ireland's Environmental Education and Youth Organisation affiliated to the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations.

