



10/01/2023

Dear Principal,

The purpose of this communication is to inform schools of an important development taking place nationally in relation to the future provision of Department of Education-funded professional development for teachers and school leaders.

Currently, there are four individual teacher education support services that provide a wide range of ongoing supports to primary, post-primary and special schools, including professional learning events for school leaders and teachers. These are the

- Centre for School Leadership (CSL)
- Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT)
- National Induction Programme for Teachers (NIPT)
- Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)

Work is at an advanced stage for the integration of these four support services and, on 1 September 2023, a new integrated support service named Oide will be established. The vision for the new integrated support service, Oide, is to support the professional learning of teachers and school leaders in Ireland through the development of high quality, innovative and responsive professional learning that enables them to meet the educational needs of all learners in a changing world.

The new organisation will harness the strengths of the existing support services, providing the same type of high-quality professional learning supports and services as provided by CSL, JCT, NIPT and PDST. Along with bringing together all the valuable resources, expertise, and efficient operating systems currently in place across the existing services, Oide will also be able to deploy other innovative and creative approaches to the provision of school support, and professional learning for teachers and school leaders, to meet the future needs of Ireland's primary, post-primary and special schools, and other centres for education.

Oide will work hard to establish itself as a listening, highly responsive and future-proofed organisation that is well placed to introduce a more streamlined communications channel between itself and all schools, ensuring that both the varied and individual needs of schools are efficiently catered for. Oide, as an organisation, will subscribe to national and international best practice. It will engage positively with all relevant stakeholders, including building on and developing existing partnerships, such as those that exist presently with school leadership stakeholders, to achieve the best possible outcomes for schools, school leaders, teachers, and learners.



The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) will continue to provide a comprehensive programme of teacher professional learning to build the capacity of schools and teachers to include and support students with special educational needs through a variety of seminars, communities of practice, post seminar workshops, bespoke in-school professional development and accessible resources. Oide will work closely with the NCSE and ensure that communication lines are strong between NCSE and Oide and that a collaborative approach is taken to teacher professional learning provision, as appropriate.

Schools do not need to take any action at this point in respect of the forthcoming new service. Further information in relation to Oide will issue later in the current school year. However, we would ask that you bring this correspondence to the attention of all relevant personnel.

A new website, www.oide.ie, will be launched early in 2023 and will be added to with time. School leaders and teachers can still access all support materials and resources associated with existing services via their different websites, for example, csl.ie; jct.ie; scoilnet.ie; webwise.ie; teacherinduction.ie; pdst.ie; pdsttechnologyineducation.ie, etc.

Schools can keep up to date with developments by following Oide on twitter: [@oide_ireland](https://twitter.com/oide_ireland).

Yours faithfully

Dr. Pádraig Kirk (Project Manager) and Teacher Education Section, Department of Education