

2015 - 2016 – at a Glance



President – Maria Doyle

100 Years of Leadership

Key milestones, challenges, projects

- Inaugural national symposium on Emotional Wellbeing in Schools attended by 500 teachers, principals and education agency staff – raised awareness
- Working Group on Emotional Wellbeing initiated with IPPN, NAPD, Ombudsman for Children, the Teaching Council, NEPS and the DES Inspectorate to develop the thinking put forward at the symposium
- The Centre for School Leadership (CSL) was formally launched in 2015 following two years of intense and considerable debate with stakeholders. CSL is a partnership between the Department for Education and Skills, IPPN and the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)
- The concept of a ‘Calendar of Reform’ was first mooted by Maria during her Presidential address at IPPN Conference 2016
- Research on ‘The State of Irish Education’ initiated by eminent academics, led by Professor Emeritus John Coolahan
- IPPN Leadership Café in June 2016 – a ground-breaking event, as IPPN hosted 70 invited guests from across the education sector to discuss four key themes, which helped to develop IPPN’s Strategic Plan for the period 2016 to 2020. The themes were:
 - What will leaders require of IPPN in 2020?
 - What does a Calendar of Reform look like?
 - How does IPPN use our influence to shape culture and policy?
 - What does a school leader do/look like in 2025?
- The One-teacher Schools member engagement project was initiated in 2016 to understand and highlight the significant challenges facing the school leaders of these schools. A detailed survey confirmed the top priority was a second adult during school hours and clarified other issues which are a particular concern from a health, safety and welfare perspective. All one-teacher school principals were invited to attend the inaugural symposium in Ballinasloe in October 2016
- Surveys of Principals and Deputy Principals highlight
 - Proposed Droichead process
 - Digital Strategy

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- New inspection models – curriculum evaluation and SEN
 - DES survey on literacy and numeracy
 - Principal's role – tenure, step back, admin support, facilities, ISM
 - Special Schools
 - Gaelscoileanna
 - Curriculum – achievements, strategy, resources, changes
 - Emotional Wellbeing.
- Various governance-related initiatives, particularly compliance with the Charitable Status Act and employment law
 - Development of Supervision, SNAs and School Self Evaluation Resource Bundles
 - Considerable work undertaken in relation to ensure IPPN's governance compliance with Charitable Status Act, Companies Act and employment-related legislation.

Continuous Professional Development

Principals' Conference 2016

Theme: 100 years of leadership

Facilitator: David McCullagh

Venue: Citywest, Dublin

Speakers:

- Aogán Ó Fearghail – Uachtarán GAA;

- Jan O'Sullivan – for Minister for Education & Skills;
- Education Spokespersons Discussion Panel;
- Professor Todd Whitaker;
- An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD;
- Dr Ciaran O'Boyle of the RCSI;
- Shane Martin;
- IPPN speakers - Maria Doyle, Seán Cottrell, Angela Lynch.

Seminars by the NCSE, the DES Inspectorate, Mary Burke, SESS, Dr Colm O'Connor; and also by Principals - David Ruddy, Siobhán Allen, Seán Hourihane, Kevin Hennigan, Kathleen Byrne, Caroline Madigan, Peter Gunning & Cólín Ó Coigligh.

Deputy Principals' Conference 2016

Theme: Proclaiming Leadership – Evolving the Role of the Deputy Principal

Venue: Citywest

Speakers: Shane Martin, Maria Doyle and Professor Ciarán Ó Boyle of the RCSI

Seminars by Siobhán Allen, Maria Doyle and Hilary McCarthy, Pat Goff, Rachel Hallahan, Angela Lynch, Enda McGorman and Áine Fitzpatrick, Brigid Scully and Kathleen Byrne & David Foley.

Ciall Ceannaithe Online Summer Course

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Press Releases

- It's time to stop blaming Peig Sayers
- IPPN President and Minister for Education agree that the time is right to start a 'conversation' on the time given to religion in our Primary Schools
- Are Schools about to become Religion Free Zones?
- Failure to provide adequate time for PE in schools impacting on Children's Physical and Emotional Wellbeing
- Emotional Wellbeing must be at the heart of all School Communities, state School Principals
- Principals to call for 'New Approaches' to the teaching of Irish and PE in Schools
- Schools are facing huge challenges in the area of Emotional Wellbeing
- Primary Education – Budget Measures
- SNA Allocation Delay not OK
- Resource Teaching Posts for 2015-2016
- Principals urge state to support schools in tackling obesity crisis
- IPPN supports small boost for small schools.

Publications

- [IPPN 2020](#) (overview of our Strategic Plan 2016-2020)
- [Leadership+ issues 88 to 93](#)
- Principal's Information Management System (PIMS).

Maria Doyle, September 2016

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President: Maria Doyle

The Power of One

Key milestones, challenges, projects

- Transition to new CEO Páirc Clerkin in May 2017 following the retirement of IPPN's first CEO Seán Cottrell
- DES Circular 0060/2017 legislates for the roll-out and operation of the Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU) from September 2017 over a three-year school period
- This year saw the publication of 'Towards a Better Future: A review of the Irish school system'. The seminal publication resulted from an initiative jointly supported by IPPN and NAPD, who were in turn inspired by a similar review of the Finnish education system by the renowned academic Dr. Pasi Sahlberg. The publication is a comprehensive overview and analysis covering contemporary early childhood, primary and second-level education in Ireland
- September 2017 saw the roll-out of the new Special Education Needs (SEN) model. It is designed to provide more equitable access to services for those most in need. Schools no longer need to wait for the arrival of a psychologist's report to support a child with obvious needs.
- The Centre for School Leadership (CSL) provided mentoring for 135 new principals as well as facilitating coaching for over 300 principals, and designing the new level 9 Post-graduate Diploma in School Leadership (PDSL), being delivered by a consortium of UCD, UL and NUIG.
- The Droichead process remains a bone of contention for many principals in particular, who cite workload, staff relations and fears over the quality assurance element of the process as key issues. A number of amendments to the process were agreed in 2017. It remains to be seen what the uptake will be in schools, as new teachers have embraced Droichead.

Continuous Professional Development

Principals' Conference 2017

Theme: The Power of One

Facilitator: Anton Savage

Venue: Citywest, Dublin

Speakers:

- Maria Doyle, IPPN President;
- Clive Byrne, NAPD Director;
- Mary Nihill, CSL Director;
- Seán Cottrell, IPPN CEO;
- Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Education and Skills;
- Rabia Siddique, Humanitarian;
- Paul O'Connell, Rugby Legend.

Seminars by Joe O'Connell, Simon Lewis, Kathleen Byrne and Ciara Brennan, Pat Goff,

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Denise Ward, Pat Connaghan, Micheál Rea, Angela Lynch, Maria Doyle, Denise Brett with Peter Long, and Niall Mellon.

Deputy Principals' Conference 2017

Theme: The Power of One

Venue: Citywest

Speakers: Declan Coyle, Maria Doyle and Joe O'Connell

Seminars by Pat Goff, Angela Lynch & Sarah McNamara; Kathleen Byrne and Ciara Brennan; Enda McGorman and Áine Fitzpatrick; Anna Mai Rooney; Robbie O'Leary; Margaret Gorman; Jim Mulkerrins & Pat Goff; Deirdre Mathews and Brian Mac Giolla Phadraig; Ann Ryan and Donal Kerins.

Ciall Ceannaithe Online Summer Course

Blended Summer Courses for Principals and Deputy Principals

Press Releases

- 7th March 2017 - Irish schools face shortage of principals as role's managerial and administrative duties deter teachers from stepping up to leadership role—education report
- 26th January 2017 – Conference-related
 - 'Schools provide a constant safe haven for Homeless and Immigrant Children' states IPPN President
 - Bullying levels down but children's emotional wellbeing is still under threat

- Bring 'good old fashioned common sense back into our overwhelmed education system' pleads education leader
- New Resource Allocation for Special Needs Children must do exactly as it says on the tin, warn school Principals
- Recent survey reveals that Ireland's primary schools are still struggling to make ends meet
- Primary Principals divided on future of Religion in Schools
- Increased funding and regulation of Early Years Education is paying dividends, say Primary Principals.
- 12th October 2017
 - IPPN Response to Budget 2017 – A mixed schoolbag!
 - Budget 2017 and Primary Education-key updates
- Education Programme for Government.

Publications

- [Towards a Better Future - A review of the Irish School System](#) (commissioned by IPPN and NAPD, authored by Professors John Coolahan, Sheelagh Drudy, Áine Hyland, Séamus McGuinness, and Dr. Pádraig Hogan)
- [Leadership+ issues 94 to 99](#)
- Principal's Information Management System (PIMS).

Maria Doyle, September 2017