

A Chairde

Being a member of a Support Group has been described as the most empowering and sustaining support to the role of a school leader. Having been assigned a 1-to1 mentor in a newly appointed principal's first year of leadership and engaging with Group Mentoring in the second year, all school leaders are encouraged to become part of a Support Group. Support Groups for Principals and Deputy Principals have been set up in all counties by IPPN. If you have any queries with regard to the mentoring continuum or support groups, please contact the Leadership Support Team in the IPPN Support Office.

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Leadership Support Team

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Discuss arrangements for sporting activities for the new school term
- Ensure that adequate supervision has been arranged and relevant vetting is in place for visiting coaches
- Include these activities in the Child Protection Risk Assessment if not already included, or review if necessary
- Is your Critical Incidents Policy current and relevant? Now may be a good time to review and discuss this policy before any outings happen.

### **TEACHING & LEARNING**

- Arrange classroom visits to review pupils work/progress
- Encourage displays of pupil's work and praise efforts made by children
- Meet Support team to ensure that all IEP's have been reviewed as necessary and to review progress of SEN pupils. To whom do you need to communicate the outcome of these meetings?
- Collect and sign Cúntas Míosúil for January.

### **BoM**

- Process any applications for leave by the BoM during February
- Discuss how the Board's decision will be communicated and by whom.

### **Time to Think**

an essential priority for every school leader

'Things will not always go the way you want them to. You will encounter frustrations, losses will occur, you will make mistakes, bump up against your limitations, fall short of your ideals. This is the human condition, a reality shared by all of us. The more you open your heart to this reality instead of constantly fighting against it, the more you will be able to feel compassion for yourself and all your fellow humans in the experience of life.' (Dr Kristin Neff, author of Self Compassion)

Try: What are some mistakes, frustrations, losses in your life recently that are really just down to the human condition and can you extend that understanding to other people's slip-ups also?