



JMB EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2023

SPECIAL CLASSES IN MAINSTREAM SECONDARY SCHOOLS



Possibilities – Practice – Policy

Full Day Event 9.00am – 3.00pm • Friday 15th September 2023
The Hogan Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre

The aim of our Conference this year is to offer peer and specialist-delivered workshops on establishing and developing special classes at your school, as well as offering opportunities for you to interact with policy makers, practitioners, specialists, support services and relevant commercial enterprises.

We intend to leave our participants – principals, chairpersons, deputy principals, SENCOs, and special education teachers – with greater clarity around policy, practice and possibilities for innovative teaching and learning for all our students.

As well as a series of relevant workshops, we will have an important keynote panel discussion from

- **Mr Joe Hayes, Outgoing Chairperson, NCSE**
- **Mr John Kearney, CEO, NCSE, and,**
- **Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, Head of Educational Psychology, Inclusive and Special Education, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick**

Conference Workshops

Our conference workshops have been designed to offer delegates important insights and discussion opportunities on the key aspects of special class provision in mainstream school settings.

Two concurrent workshop sessions will be presented, and each conference participant may choose a morning and an afternoon workshop.

1.	Landmarks in Establishing a Special Class From decision to opening – the journey mapped out
2.	Special Class Pedagogy – Unique yet Universal Providing for positive experience and outcomes, broad access, and authentic integration
3.	From Establishment to Embedding A Principal, SENCO, and SNA share their in-school journey and achievement indicators
4.	Engaging Parents – Transitions, Welcomes, and Authentic Partnerships How parents and school can co-create the pathway to successful partnership
5.	Specialist Support and Development Needs identification and school response in students with complex conditions
6.	Individual and School-Wide Support and Development What can NEPS and NCSE do for you?

Timetable

(subject to change)

Online Registration
will open in
August
#JMBedconf

9.00–9.30	Registration–Tea/Coffee
9.40–10.00	Welcome by Mr John Barry, President JMB/AMCSS
10.00–10.45	Keynote Panel Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Joe Hayes, Outgoing Chairperson, NCSE• Mr John Kearney, CEO, NCSE, and,• Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, Head of Educational Psychology, Inclusive and Special Education, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
10.45–11.15	Coffee Break
11.15–12.30	Workshops: Session 1
12.30–1.45	Lunch
1.45–3.00	Workshops: Session 2, and Close of Conference

See reverse for workshops descriptions

JMB Joint Managerial Body
AMCSS Association of Management of Catholic Secondary Schools
Secretariat of Secondary Schools

Emmet House, Milltown, Dublin 14, D14V3K8. T 01 283 8255 E info@jmb.ie W www.jmb.ie

	Workshop Title and Presenter	Key Issues
1	Landmarks in Establishing a Special Class Ms Sarah Ledwidge, Team Manager, NCSE Ms Sinead McDonnell, Department of Education Planning and Building Unit; Mr Martin McLoughlin, Principal Officer, Special Education Section and Ms Amy O’Grady, Assistant Principal Officer, Schools’ Capital Appraisal Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First steps on receiving the request from NCSE • Engaging your BOM, Patron and school community • Accessing resources for buildings, infrastructure, and furnishing
2	Special Class Pedagogy – Unique yet Universal Dr Fiona McCaffrey, Middletown Centre for Autism Mr Billy Redmond, Principal, North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing for the most appropriate curriculums and differentiated teaching • Integrating students with mainstream classes • Deploying a Universal Design for Learning’ mindset
3	From Establishment to Embedding Mr Padhraic Gibbons, Principal, Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Secondary School, Drimnagh Ms Alison Smith, AEN Coordinator, OLM Ms Kate Montgomery-Martin, Special Needs Assistant, OLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing our particular journey – from forming to norming to performing • What are the key success indicators to look out for? • Where are the ‘bear-traps’?
4	Engaging Parents – Transitions, Welcomes, and Authentic Partnerships Mr Adam Harris, CEO, <i>AsIAm</i> Ms Zarah Doyle, Partnership Parent with <i>AsIAm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing our first-hand parent experiences, beginning with the primary to secondary transition • Respecting roles and boundaries – what does effective partnership look like? • Optimising communication and anxiety management
5	Specialist Support and Development Ms Joan McDonald NCSE Ms Suzanne McCanney, Specialist Autism Lead, NCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs identification in students with complex conditions • Tracking and recording developmental progress • Building agility into a bespoke curriculum
6	Individual and School-Wide Support and Development Ms Christine Chapple - National Educational Psychology Service Ms Helen Walsh, Head of Operations – Inclusion and Education Services, NCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPS supports for individual students, parents, and special class personnel • School-wide professional learning and development opportunities • Accessing resources and supports for school leaders, SENCOs, SETs, mainstream teachers, students, SNAs, and parents



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