



AMCSS/JMB
36th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Rediscovering Purpose, Value, and Faith in our schools

26 – 28 April, 2023
Europe Hotel, Killarney

#jmbconference

Keynote Speaker:
Professor Graham HC Donaldson
CB MA MEd DLitt (Hon) FRSA

Online Booking Only
See **www.jmb.ie**

Programme Timetable (subject to change)

Wednesday 26 April

5.00 - 6.30pm	Registration
6.00pm	Welcome reception for new principals appointed in 2022/2023
6.30 - 6.45pm	Opening Prayer & Welcome
6.45 - 7.30pm	Opening Keynote Address <i>Professor Graham HC Donaldson CB MA MEd DLitt (Hon) FRSA</i>
7.45pm	Allianz Buffet Dinner

Thursday 27 April

9.15 - 9.20am	Opening Prayer
9.20 - 10.00am	Ms Yvonne Keating, Chief Inspector, Department of Education
10.00 - 10.45am	General Secretary's Report Presentation to Outgoing General Secretary, Mr John Curtis
10.45 - 11.15am	Tea/Coffee visit exhibition stands
11.15 - 12.00pm	Minister for Education Ms Norma Foley President AMCSS/JMB Mr John Barry
12.15 - 1.15pm	Liturgy <i>Celebrated by Bishop Ray Browne</i>
1.30 - 3.00pm	Lunch
3.00 - 4.00pm	Workshops 1 & Clinics
7.30 - 8.00pm	Reception – Hotel Europe Foyer & Lounge
8.00pm	Gala Dinner, Panorama Restaurant, Hotel Europe

Friday 28 April

9.30 - 10.00am	Mr Alan Hynes, CEO, Catholic Education Partnership
10.00 - 10.40am	Ms Andrea Feeney, CEO, State Examinations Commission
10.40 - 11.10am	Motions
11.10 - 11.40am	Tea/Coffee - Visit Exhibition Stands
11.45 - 12.45pm	Workshops 2 & Clinics
12.45 - 1.30pm	Closing Keynote Address <i>Mr Sean Goan</i>
	Closing Prayer
	Lunch & Close of Conference

Timetable subject to change

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2023

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Who we are · What we do · Training & events · News & topics · Resources

Actively involved in school management, policies and decision-making in Irish education

Online Booking Only at www.jmb.ie

The cost of conference is:

1 person €375

2 people (principal & chairperson) €700

Payment can be made by credit/debit card

Member services

Training



Opening Keynote Speaker

Professor Graham HC Donaldson,

CB MA MEd DLitt (Hon) FRSA

A former teacher, Graham Donaldson headed Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) from 2002-10. He radically transformed the approach to inspection in Scotland with a much greater emphasis on self-evaluation and improvement. He also introduced the inspection of local authorities and, at the invitation of the then First Minister, established a national, multi-disciplinary inspection system for child protection. As HMSCI and chief professional advisor to successive Scottish Ministers on education, he took a leading role in Scotland's major reform of its curriculum. Following retirement from HMIE, his report '*Teaching Scotland's Future*' (2011) led to a significant reform programme of teacher education in Scotland.

In 2014, at the invitation of the Welsh Government, he undertook a personal review of the national curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales. The Welsh Government accepted all 68 recommendations of his report, *Successful Futures*, and reforms involving the curriculum, assessment governance, professional learning, and accountability were in train for implementation in 2022. He has recently completed an independent review of the education inspectorate in Wales (*A Learning Inspectorate*).

In addition to extensive consultancy work, including serving as an international expert to OECD country reviews of Australia, Portugal, Sweden and Japan, Graham is an international expert supporting the OECD's 2030 Project. He is an honorary professor at the University of Glasgow, past President of IPDA and past President of the Standing International Council of Inspectorates.

Graham is currently advisor on educational reform to the Welsh Government and a member of the First Minister of Scotland's International Council of Education Advisors. He was also a member of the Expert Panel supporting the review of national bodies in Scotland and is currently supporting the review of national qualifications in Scotland.

Graham was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath by the Queen in 2009 for services to education and received the Robert Owen Award as an inspirational educator from the Scottish Government in 2015. He has also received Honorary Doctorates from the University of Wales TSD and the University of Glasgow.



Closing Keynote Speaker

Sean Goan

Sean Goan is a retired teacher and an author of a religion text book. He was seconded to the Le Chéile Schools Trust as Faith Development Officer from 2009-2014. On his return to school he was appointed chaplain. He retired in 2017 and subsequently worked in the area of Pastoral Planning for the Spiritan Congregation. He is also a Scripture scholar who has studied in Rome and Jerusalem. He has published short commentaries on the Sunday readings as well as a book on the Gospel of John. He has lectured widely in Ireland on biblical topics, spirituality and adult faith development. He is a founder member of the TARSUS SCRIPTURE SCHOOL, an on line resource for the study of the Bible.

P1



Plenary 1

Ms Yvonne Keating, Chief Inspector, Department of Education

Yvonne Keating is Chief Inspector at the Department of Education in Ireland. Prior to joining the Inspectorate, Yvonne worked as a teacher. As Deputy Chief Inspector from 2019 to 2022, Yvonne had responsibility for leading the advisory and policy work of the Inspectorate. She previously had responsibility for the introduction and trial of a range of education inspection models in schools and pre-schools in Ireland. Yvonne holds post-graduate qualifications in education and has undertaken further studies in inspection and regulation at the Institute of Education, University of London and leadership studies at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She also studied law at the Kings Inns Dublin and was called to the Irish Bar in 2002. Yvonne has presented at national and international events on a range of education matters including the impact of inspection on professional practice, nurturing professional learning and the role of inspection in promoting improvement in the quality of learning experiences for children and young people.

P2



Plenary 2

Ms Norma Foley, Minister for Education

Norma Foley TD was appointed Minister for Education in June 2020. The Department has policy responsibility for early years, primary and post-primary education in Ireland. Minister Foley has led the Department of Education during the pandemic, with a strong focus on ensuring ongoing dialogue and engagement with all education stakeholders. Following closure due to COVID-19 in March 2020, she has overseen the re-opening of schools in Autumn 2020, putting in place a multi-million euro package of support measures for school communities. She has overseen the successful development and delivery of alternative assessment mechanisms to facilitate students leaving post-primary schools to progress to further and higher education and the world of work, when traditional examinations were not possible due to COVID-19.

Minister Foley has a passionate interest in excellence and equity in education, most notably when she provided for the inclusion of the student voice as a partner in education.

Amongst the key initiatives progressed during her first two and a half years in office Minister Foley has announced the biggest ever expansion of the Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools (DEIS) programme ensuring that one out of every four of our students can now avail of DEIS supports. Minister Foley has also undertaken the first comprehensive reform of the Leaving Certificate Programme since the foundation of the State and has recently unveiled Cineáltas, the Department's new Action Plan on Bullying.

Prior to her election to Dáil Eireann and appointment as Minister, Ms Foley worked as a post-primary teacher in her home town of Tralee. A graduate of University College Cork, she served as a member of Kerry County Council for many years and has held the position of Mayor of Tralee on two occasions and also has served as Mayor of County Kerry and served three terms as Mayor of Tralee.

P3



Plenary 3

Mr Alan Hynes, CEO, Catholic Education Partnership

Alan Hynes is the Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Education Partnership (CEP). Appointed in June 2022 having previously served as the Director of St. Senan's Education Office, where he was responsible for oversight of the governance of over five hundred Catholic Primary schools in four dioceses, and before then as an Education Advisor in Catholic Primary Schools Management Association. He has a background in business and politics.

P4



Plenary 4

Ms Andrea Feeney, CEO, State Examinations Commission

Andrea Feeney is Chief Executive Officer of the State Examinations Commission (SEC) since November 2020. Prior to that she was Director of the Calculated Grades Executive Office of the Department of Education and before that Director of Operations and IT with the SEC. Andrea has led a number of transformational change programmes including reform of the scheme of reasonable accommodations for students with special educational needs; the adoption of online marking as the SEC's way of working; and the response to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the examinations system. Current priorities include ensuring the engagement of teachers in the important work of marking and delivering the state examinations. Andrea holds a Masters in Management from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.

Workshops

W1



Special Class Provision in Our Schools: Exploring models of inclusive pedagogical practice

Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, MIC, & Mr Joe Lynch

Johanna Fitzgerald is a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Educational Psychology, Inclusive and Special Education at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Her current research interests include educational leadership and the SENCO role; teacher professional learning for inclusive special education; and the importance of inter-professional collaboration and education to improve outcomes for learners with additional needs. She values collaborative research and knowledge exchange which promotes research-informed practice in schools, and which also supports a partnership approach to practice-informed research.



Joe Lynch is a post-primary teacher in Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB). He currently works with schools across Limerick and Clare ETB as part of a Support Team that facilitates Inclusive Teaching, Learning and Assessment. Joe has worked with students with additional needs for over 30 years having been a SENCO in a comprehensive secondary school in London. On his return to Ireland he worked as a resource teacher in Ennis Community College before his secondment to the National Behaviour Support Service for nine years. Joe is also both a qualified individual and group psychotherapist.

The emerging and contested policy and practice context for special class provision in post primary schools is the focus of this workshop. While national and international policy and legislative drivers for a more inclusive approach to education for all are espoused, accelerated moves towards the establishment of special classes, particularly autism special classes, have emerged. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) positions school and community inclusion as a human rights matter (UN, 2006). The UNCRPD emphasises the right of people with disabilities to access appropriate, inclusive education and states that people with disabilities must not be excluded from mainstream education (UN, 2006). Thus the UNCRPD positions special education, particularly when it occurs in separate settings including special classes, as philosophically distinct from inclusive education and contrary to the human rights of people with disabilities (UN, 2006). With all schools expected to open special classes in the next three to five years, this workshop aims to address implications for school communities and identify some of the tensions that can exist between policy and practice and explore some future directions for the evolution of special classes. Examples of inclusive, evidence-based approaches to special class provision will be presented, and participants will be invited to critically reflect on what is considered inclusive education for students with complex needs in their schools.

W2



Establishing a Special Class – A Roadmap from Decision to the Delivery

Ms Helen Walsh

Helen Walsh is currently working as the Head of Operations – Inclusion and Education Services for the NCSE.

Having completed training as a post primary teacher in 1996, Helen has worked in a variety of special education placements including post primary, Special School and pilot project posts of responsibility. Helen was awarded a Masters in Psychology in Glasgow University, has undertaken post graduate research in dyslexia and is dedicated to supporting students with emotional difficulties at risk of school inclusion has contributed to her understanding of Special Educational Needs in Ireland.

Having worked as a SENO for 14 years and as a Team Manager with the NCSE for Dublin North since 2018, Helen has now assumed her current role for the NCSE holding key responsibility for the National delivery of NCSE services. Her work since October 2022 has had as its key objectives; restoring NCSE service delivery to the heart of school communities and developing partnerships with school communities on excellence in practice to advance better outcomes for students with additional needs.

With all schools expected to open special classes in the short term, this workshop aims to address implications for school communities and identify the practical steps that schools and school leaders can take to be ready and equipped to provide for students in a special education class setting.

All our schools are committed to providing for students with additional and special needs. Likewise, our school leaders are committed to and asking about how best to do their very best!

Their key concerns include how best to facilitate staff professional learning, how staffing allocation works and how to put a proper infrastructure in place. They also worry about how to access appropriate support for the design of the learning space, how timetabling works, and how best to provide for genuinely inclusive learning environments and a quality experience for all students. Communication with all school stakeholders is another concern.

This workshop will address each of these issues and will offer time and space for questions from those opening special classes in the next school year.

W3



Reviewing your School's Health and Safety Policy – Some Practical Easy Steps

Mr Shay Bannon

Shay Bannon is an educational consultant who has extensive practical experience in education having been a secondary school teacher and the principal of a large second level school for 22 years.

He has considerable experience of acting as an investigator including grievance, harassment and bullying cases, and is regularly involved as an expert witness in court cases taken against schools.

Shay was was Chair of the National Covid Advisory Group within GAA and he is currently Chair of GAA's Central Committee for Health and Safety

He regularly advises and provides in-service training to schools, professional associations and management bodies on educational and health, safety and welfare matters.

Workshop will provide practical guidance and advice on reviewing and updating a Safety Statement.

Focus of the workshop will be to:

- equip participants with the knowledge and competence to promote and maintain a safe and healthy work environment
- provide participants with a basic awareness of workplace safety so that they can implement the required standards of health and safety in a school setting.
- help participants to be better informed about the purpose and importance of having an up-to-date Safety Statement.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss any specific concerns that they might have in relation to the reviewing and updating of a Safety Statement.

W4



Creativity, Conversation, Community – How School Leaders are enabling cultures of collaborative professionalism in their schools

Ms Carmel Kearns, Ms Deirdre O'Callaghan & Mr Donal Madden

Carmel Kearns is Head of Teachers' Learning and Research in the Teaching Council. She supports the work of the Council's Education Committee, and has played a key role in the development of a range of landmark policy documents, including the first Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers, the Council's Policy on the Continuum of Teacher Education and Droichead, An Integrated Induction Framework. She was instrumental in the development of the Council's professional accreditation criteria for reconceptualised ITE programmes, and led the process by which all programmes in Ireland were reviewed for accreditation purposes for the first time. More recently, she has supported the development of Cosán, the national framework for teachers' learning in Ireland.

Deirdre O'Callaghan is Deputy Principal in Newbridge College, Co. Kildare. Deirdre has 25 years teaching experience, has completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Management and a Master of Education (Leadership), both in Maynooth University, graduating with 1st class Honours. Deirdre has established and led the Learners' Voice team in her school for 7 years and their work has shaped transformational cultural change in Newbridge College as a result. This work has been recognised at national and global level.

Donal Madden has a B.A. (Hons) from UCG in Maths and Gaeilge. He completed his H.Dip (Hons) in Education in UCG in 2001. He holds a Masters in Educational Mentoring (Hons) from the University of Limerick. He has also completed a Certificate in Management and Leadership from TUS. He became deputy principal of Newport College in 2019 and principal in 2020.

This workshop will introduce the concept of collaborative professionalism and the impact it can have on teaching and learning. It will situate the concept within Cosán, the national framework for teachers learning, and showcase two examples of collaborative professionalism in practice. In doing so, it will incorporate opportunities for audience participation and feedback.

W5



Data protection for schools: some of the challenges

Cyril Drury

Cyril Drury is a former school principal and now Data Protection Advisor with the JMB. Cyril also provides input and advice on data protection for a number of European school projects.

This workshop will focus on some of the more complex data protection queries that arise for school management, and discuss how best to manage some common scenarios, including: (i) responding to information requests from parents (when for example you're in the middle of dealing with a bullying investigation or you're aware that there is a parental "alienation" situation); (ii) requests for information received from An Garda Siochana, government agencies or commercial school service providers; (iii) queries from the Data Protection Commission in relation to a personal data breach or because there has been a complaint. There will also be an opportunity for participants to raise and discuss other relevant issues of concern.

W6



Building SPHE as a foundational pillar for wellbeing and for life

Annette Honan & Raymond McHugh

Annette Honan is a secondary school teacher and currently Education Officer with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). She has responsibility for curriculum development across a range of subjects, has authored the NCCA Wellbeing guidelines for junior cycle and is currently leading the work in updating the junior cycle and senior cycle SPHE curriculum.



Raymond McHugh is a member of the JMB's School Management Advisory team, prior to that he was principal of St. Macartan's College Monaghan. He is currently chairperson of the NCCA's Senior Cycle SPHE Development Group and the JMB's nominee on the NCCA's Junior Cycle Board.

This workshop will discuss the protective and positive role SPHE can play in promoting physical, social and emotional wellbeing and in reducing incidents of illbeing in schools. The workshop will discuss:

- what's new in the updated SPHE programme
- what are the features of an effective SPHE school programme
- what school leaders can do to support SPHE at school
- how schools can prepare for meeting the challenges and opportunities of an updated SPHE curriculum,
- and the risks of not doing so

W7



The Role of the BOM in Leading Learning

Brendan O'Sullivan, Post-primary Inspector, Inspectorate, Department of Education

Brendan O'Sullivan is a post-primary inspector and a member of the School Leadership Working Group (SLWG) which reports directly to the senior management in the Department of Education. The SLWG works with the various stakeholders including primary and post-primary management bodies, school leaders', and representative organisations, CSL and teacher's professional learning services to support the work of school leaders. In his 30 year career, Brendan taught and assumed various leadership roles in schools in the UK, Dublin and, prior to joining the Inspectorate, in Gorey Community School in Co. Wexford.

From Cork, Brendan's undergraduate studies were at UCC, before taking on a range of post-graduate studies in School Leadership, Geography, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Education Innovation at SETU (formerly WIT), University of Limerick and University College Dublin.

This will be an engaging and interactive workshop to prompt a discussion around how Boards of Management can enhance their oversight of leading learning in post-primary schools. It is hoped to capture the current experience of BOM chairs, to share perspectives, while exploring what chairs see as necessary to develop highly effective practice in leading learning.

The workshop will look at how the updated Looking At Our Schools (LAOS, 2022) quality framework can guide BOMs as well as offering some practical suggestions that chairpersons might share with board members to fulfil their statutory role.

Conference Clinics

C1



School Buildings Unit

Noel Merrick

Noel Merrick, Michael Cregan and Tom Shannon, School Building Projects Advisors will be available to meet members on a one-to one basis.

C2



Medmark (Friday only)

Dr Robert Ryan

Dr. Robert Ryan will be available to meet members on Friday 28th April on a one-to-one basis.

C3



Schools Procurement Unit (SPU)

Ronan Farrell

Ronan Farrell, Director, Schools Procurement Unit will be available to meet members on a one-to-one basis.

C4



Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU)

FSSU Team

The FSSU Team will be available to meet members on a one-to-one basis.

AMCSS/JMB 36th Annual Conference List of Workshops, Clinics & Plenary Sessions

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W1	Special Class Provision in Our Schools: Exploring models of inclusive pedagogical practice Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, MIC, & Mr Joe Lynch
W2	Establishing a Special Class – A Roadmap from Decision to the Delivery Helen Walsh NCSE
W3	Reviewing your School's Health and Safety Policy – Some Practical Easy Steps Shay Bannon, Health and Safety Consultant
W4	Creativity, Conversation, Community – How School Leaders are enabling cultures of collaborative professionalism in their schools Carmel Kearns, Head of Teachers' Learning and Research, Teaching Council Deirdre O'Callaghan & Donal Madden
W5	Data protection for schools: some of the challenges Cyril Drury
W6	Building SPHE as a foundational pillar for wellbeing and for life Annette Honan, NCCA & Raymond McHugh
W7	The Role of the BOM in Leading Learning Brendan O'Sullivan, Post-primary Inspector

Clinics

C1	School Buildings Unit Noel Merrick, Michael Cregan and Tom Shannon
C2 (Friday only)	Medmark Dr Robert Ryan
C3	Schools Procurement Unit (SPU) Ronan Farrell
C4	Financial Support Services Unit (FSSU) FSSU Team

Plenary Sessions

P1	Yvonne Keating
P2	Minister Norma Foley
P3	Alan Hynes
P4	Andrea Feeney