

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Pat Knightly is a teacher in St. Augustine's College, Waterford and has over 20 years' experience as a special education teacher. He is currently the SEN coordinator in his school of 1000-plus students. Pat represents Region 7 on the ASTI Standing Committee, having previously served on the Education Committee. He represents the ASTI on the NCCA Development Group for Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes. Pat is an elected member of the Teaching Council representing the Dublin and South Area.



Maria Markey-Greene is coordinator and resource teacher for students with vision impairment, maths and business in Rosmini Community School, Dublin. Maria is one of the few trained specialist teachers of vision impaired children in Ireland. She has published teaching and learning materials for vision impaired children and in 2014 co-authored the Unified English Braille (UEB) Guidelines for Technical Materials, produced by the International Council on English Braille (ICEB). She represents Region 16 on ASTI Standing Committee.



Brendan Doody is a principal officer in the Department of Education with responsibility for special education policy. He has led the Department's response to the National Council for Special Education's policy advice on inclusive education and has developed programmes to support inclusive practices in schools. Prior to his current role, he was Assistant Chief Inspector for inclusion and teacher education. Prior to his career in the Department of Education Brendan was a primary school teacher, special education teacher and school principal. He represents Ireland on the Board of the European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education.



Natalie Doyle Bradley is a special education teacher and ICT Coordinator in Chanel College, Coolock. An early adopter of all types of technology she has several postgraduate qualifications in ICT for education, 21st-century teaching and learning, special education, autism, and leadership. Recently, Natalie has developed AI tools that enhance planning, teaching and learning, enabling teachers to create high-quality plans and resources to ensure every student receives personalised, high-quality support. She represents the ASTI on the NCCA Development Group for Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes.



Donal Cremin is President of the ASTI. Previous ASTI roles have included Vice President, Branch Officer, Regional Organiser and Standing Committee Representative. He is a teacher of engineering, technical graphics and CSPE at Scoil Phobhail Sliabh Luachra in Rathmore, Co. Kerry. Donal previously represented the ASTI on the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment as a Subject Representative for Engineering.



Inclusive Education in our Schools: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ASTI Education Conference 2024



**Saturday 12th October,
Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone**

ASTI Education Conference 2024



PROGRAMME

09.30 - 10.30	Registration
10.30 - 10.40	OPENING ADDRESS Donal Cremin, <i>ASTI President</i>
10.40 - 11.00	KEYNOTE SPEAKER <i>Inclusive education in our schools: the journey so far and yet to be taken</i> Professor Emeritus Sheelagh Drudy, <i>UCD</i>
11.00 - 11.20	A PROGRESSIVE PATHWAY FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: NEXT STEPS John Kearney, <i>Chief Executive Officer, National Council for Special Education</i>
11.20 - 11.45	DISCUSSION
11.45 - 12.30	TEACHERS' EXPERIENCE OF INCLUSION - AND WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE Sinéad Corkery, Pat Knightly & Maria Markey-Greene
12.30 - 13.30	LUNCH
13.30 - 13.50	INCLUSIVE EDUCATION MEASURES IN SCHOOLS Brendan Doody, <i>Special Education and Disability Policy, Department of Education</i>
13.50 - 14.15	DISCUSSION
14.15 - 15.00	AI AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION: TEACHER PROFESSIONALISM IN ACTION Natalie Doyle Bradley
15.00	CLOSE OF CONFERENCE



Ingrid Miley is a barrister specialising in employment law. Prior to commencing legal practice in 2021, she held the position of Industry and Employment Correspondent at RTÉ for almost 20 years. In that role, she was responsible for covering a broad range of complex issues for RTÉ's television, radio and online news outlets. These included industrial disputes, public sector pay negotiations, social partnership, employment rights, social welfare and analysis of relevant legislation. As a member of RTÉ's Business Desk team, Ingrid also contributed to coverage of broader economic issues including the Budget, government expenditure and infrastructure.



Sheelagh Drudy is Emeritus Professor of Education at University College Dublin and former Head of the UCD School of Education having commenced her career as a secondary school teacher in Dublin. She has researched and published numerous books and peer-reviewed papers on education including the sociology of education, gender, class, teacher education and inclusion. She is a former member of the Teaching Council and of the National Council for Special Education. She currently chairs the Advisory Group for the Review of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004. Sheelagh chaired the ground-breaking Task Force on Autism established by Minister for Education, Michael Woods, T.D., in 2001.



John Kearney is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Council for Special Education having previously held multiple leadership roles in education. He commenced his career as a teacher in St Colman's College, Fermoy and moved to Cavan town to take up the principalship of Breifne College. John was appointed CEO of the Cavan and Monaghan ETB in September 2016 having previously served as Education Officer. In these roles he oversaw the delivery of a multi-million Regional Capital Investment Programme and the implementation of several ICT projects. As CEO of the NCSE, John is committed to developing effective stakeholder relationships in supporting the collective implementation of the vision, goals and strategy of an inclusive education system for children with additional educational needs.



Sinéad Corkery is the Deputy Principal and French teacher in St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School, Dublin. In addition to her school leadership and teaching duties, Sinéad works closely with the school's SEN coordinator, the wider SEN team and with parents whose children have additional learning needs. A key aspect of her role is ensuring that classroom teachers are fully supported in creating inclusive learning environments in classrooms and across the wider school community. Sinéad represents Region 18 on ASTI Standing Committee.

Conference will be moderated by Ingrid Miley