Teacher Education for Inclusion

Keynote Speakers

Professor Sir Tim Brighouse, former Schools Commissioner for London

Mr Renato Opertti, UNESCO International Bureau of Education

Dr Amanda Watkins, European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education





PROGRAMME

Thursday 28 October 2010

Lagan Suite, Hilton Hotel, Belfast

Chair: Dr Tom Hesketh, Director, Regional Training Unit,

Belfast (Co-Chair SCoTENS)

10.00 am **Registration** and refreshments, Lagan Suite

Reception Area

10.30 am Official Opening by Ms Caitríona Ruane MLA, NI

Minister for Education, and

Mr Sean Haughey TD, Irish Minister of State for

Lifelong Learning

11.00 am Mr Renato Opertti, Coordinator, Capacity Building

Programme, UNESCO International Bureau of Education: **From Inclusive Education to**

Inclusive Curricula

11.45 am **Dr Amanda Watkins**, Assistant Director, and

Dr Verity Donnelly, Project Leader, European Agency for Development in Special Needs

Education: Teacher Education for Inclusion -

issues and challenges12.45 pm Round table plenary discussion

1.30 pm **Lunch**

2.30 pm **Teacher Education for Inclusion Workshops**:

 Race: facilitated by Dr Karl Kitching, University College Cork (Lagan Suite)

 Special Education: facilitated by Mr Pat Curtin, Chief Executive, National Council for Special Education (Rol) and Dr Jacqueline Lambe, University of Ulster (Boardroom)

 Access and Travellers: facilitated by Dr Lisa Keane, Trinity College Dublin and Dr Joe Travers, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Speakers include Ms Anne Donnellan, Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers, Department of Education and Skills and Ms Mary Forde, Principal of Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway (Broadway Suite)

- Disability: facilitated by Dr Bronagh Byrne, Queen's University Belfast (Brookfield Suite)
- Professional Development of Teachers: facilitated by Professor Marie Parker Jenkins, University of Limerick. Speakers include Ms Joan McCombe, St Mary's University College Belfast and Ms Deirdre O'Connor Equality Officer, Irish National Teachers Organisation (Glenbank Suite)

4.00 pm Refreshments, Lagan Suite Reception Area4.20 pm Report back from workshops and discussion. Panel:

Dr Amanda Watkins, Dr Verity Donnelly, Mr Renato Opertti, Mr John Hunter, Managing Inspector for Special Education and Inclusion, NI Education and Training Inspectorate, and **Ms Áine Lawlor**, Director, The Teaching Council (Ireland).

5.30 pm SCoTENS business meeting

6.00 pm Close for evening 7.00 pm **Launch of repor**

Launch of reports in Lagan Suite Reception Area Professor John Coolahan will launch *Reflective* Practice - Challenges for Teacher Education, North and South: SCoTENS 2009 Conference

and Annual Reports

Professor John Furlong, University of Oxford, will launch *Valuing Education Technology in Schools in Ireland, North and South*

7.45pm Dinner in Lagan Suite

After dinner speaker: **Professor Sir Tim Brighouse**, former Schools Commissioner for London and Chief Education Officer for Birmingham

Friday 29 October 2010

Lagan Suite, Hilton Hotel, Belfast

Chair: Professor Teresa O'Doherty, Head of Education,

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

(Co-Chair SCoTENS)

9.00 am **Professor Sir Tim Brighouse: The Inclusion**

Agenda - Challenges for Teacher Education

10.00 am Perspectives from School Principals and Teachers:

Dr Michael Dobbins, Principal, Foyle View Special

School, Derry

Secondary Principal (NI): **Mr Maurice Doherty**, Principal, Ballynahinch High School, Co Down Primary Principal (RoI): **Ms Mary Dunlea Fitzgerald**, Principal, St Tola's National School,

Shannon, Co Clare

Ms Anna Fitzgerald, newly qualified

teacher, Limerick

11.00 am Refreshments, Lagan Suite Reception Area 11.30 am HEI Responses to the Teacher Education for

Inclusion challenge: Professor Tony Gallagher,
Pro Vice Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast
and Professor Sheelagh Drudy, University
College Dublin: Inclusive education,
transformation and teacher education

in Ireland

12.30 pm Round table plenary discussion1.15pm Lunch and close of conference

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRPERSONS



Ms Caitriona Ruane MLA is Minister for Education and has been a Sinn Fein MLA for South Down since 2003. From 1997 to 2001 she was the Director of Féile an Phobal, the West Belfast Festival and a founder of the city's St Patrick's Day Parade. In 2000 President McAleese presented her with the Aisling Person of the year Award. A Gaelgeoir and fluent Spanish speaker,

she was chairperson of the 'Bring Them Home' campaign, working for the release of three Irish republicans imprisoned in Colombia. In the mid-1980s Ms Ruane worked for a US based aid foundation in Central America. On her return to Ireland, she worked for Trocaire before co-founding the Centre for Research and Documentation in Belfast, which studied conflict resolution



in Ireland, South Africa and Central America. She has lobbied the UN and the EU on human rights in the North. She is a former international tennis player.



Mr Sean Haughey TD is the Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and a TD for Dublin North Central. His areas of special responsibility include lifelong learning, educational disadvantage and school transport. He was elected to Dail Eireann in 1992. He is a former Lord Mayor of Dublin,

member of Seanad Eireann and National Chairman of Ogra Fianna Fail. He is a son of former Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey.



Dr Tom Hesketh is Director of the Regional Training Unit in Belfast which has the responsibility for leadership training across the Northern Ireland Education Service, including the Professional Qualification for Headship. He taught for 11 years before entering the schools' advice and support services in Northern Ireland, working for two of the five Education and

Library Boards. He has chaired a number of departmental working groups on themes such as school development planning, pupils' emotional health and wellbeing, and Specialist Schools. He has also undertaken consultancy work for the Department of Education in Malta and is a visiting fellow with the International Leadership Centre, University of Hull, and with the University of Lincoln. He is a regular contributor to the Doctorate in Education course at Queen's University, Belfast. He is the Northern Co-Chair of SCoTENS. He holds a PhD in Political Science and an MA in Human Resource Management.



Mr Renato Opertti has been the Programme Specialist for the Capacity Building and Policy Dialogue Programme at the UNESCO International Bureau of Education in Geneva since 2006. His current main tasks are to support regions and countries in the processes of curriculum change and management through the elaboration of learning tools

and the implementation of capacity development workshops; to coordinate UNESCO's worldwide Community of Practice (COP) in Curriculum Development where the issues of curriculum change can be jointly discussed and implemented within the framework of EFA (Education for All) goals; and to support the implementation of follow-up activities of the 48th session of the International Conference on Education on inclusive education and curriculum. Between 2006 and 2009, the COP has contributed to the implementation of 98 workshops, seminars, conferences and symposiums in Arab States, Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr Amanda Watkins is the Assistant Director for Project Implementation at the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education. She is responsible for managing a number of ongoing projects including Teacher Education for



Inclusion and Higher Education Accessibility Guides, coordinating the agency's information dissemination procedures and coordinating EU grant funded projects. Her specific interests include policy and legal frameworks for inclusive and special needs education; international comparative approaches to inclusive and special needs education; and post compulsory provision

for learners with special needs. She is editor of the *Educational Studies Journal* and the *Special Needs Abstract Journal*, and is guest editor of the *Journal of Research in Comparative and International Education* and a member of the National Association of Special Needs Education (NASEN).



Dr Verity Donnelly is the Project Leader in charge of project implementation at the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education. She is responsible for managing the Teacher Education for Inclusion and Inclusive Education in Action projects. Her specific interests include curriculum and assessment issues in SEN; transition from school for learners

with learning disabilities, and the education of learners with profound and complex learning disabilities. Prior to taking up her present position she worked in both mainstream and special schools and colleges, for local authority advisory and inspection services, and for the Curriculum Assessment Authority for Wales.



Mr Karl Kitching is a Lecturer in the School of Education, University College Cork. He previously worked as a primary school teacher in Blanchardstown in County Dublin. His current and forthcoming publications focus on the ways in which new migrant students are considered acceptable or unacceptable in educational settings, particularly in terms of racism,

class and gender inequalities. His next research project aims to analyse children's and families' experiences of First Communion in Ireland.



Mr Pat Curtin is Chief Executive of the National Council for Special Education (Ireland). The NCSE was established in 2004 under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act of that year. Its current remit is to provide support for schools in relation to children with Special Educational Needs, undertake research in this area and provide policy advice to the Irish Minister for Education and Skills.



Dr Jacqueline Lambe is a Lecturer in Education at the University of Ulster. She is Programme Director for PGCE Art and Design with responsibility for Special Educational Needs and inclusion education for all post-primary PGCE programmes. Her



research interests relate to Initial Teacher Education and issues around Special Educational Needs and inclusion, the use of ICT, and Art and Design Education.



Dr Lisa Keane has worked with the Trinity Access Programmes at Trinity College Dublin since 2007. Her work centres on the research and development of the programmes, with a key focus on the post-entry support needs of non-traditional students. She recently completed a PhD on student teachers' experiences of their initial teacher education.



Dr Joe Travers is Director of the Special Education Department at St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra. He is a former primary school teacher (mainstream, special class, learning support/resource teacher for Travellers). He has published in the areas of policy and practice in special education/learning support for mathematics, inclusion, leadership and early intervention. He has

just completed, as lead researcher, a Department of Education and Skills-funded project entitled 'Addressing the challenges of inclusion in Irish schools' and a register of research in special education.



Ms Anne Donnellan has worked in the Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers of the Department of Education and Skills since 1992. She holds a Masters in Human Rights degree from the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland Galway.



Ms Mary Forde is Principal of Presentation College, Athenry, Co. Galway, a coeducational voluntary secondary school that caters for 750 students. She has been Principal there for the past five years and also works with the Department of Education and Skills in the training of second level school principals and deputy principals.



Dr Bronagh Byrne is a Research Fellow in Children's Rights based in the School of Education at Queen's University Belfast. She has expertise in the areas of international human rights law, children's rights, disability, equality and inclusion. Her background is in the area of young people, disability and education, in which she attained her doctorate. She previously worked as a

researcher for the Centre on Human Rights for Disabled People where she was responsible for developing the Centre's policy and research activities in rights-based issues for disabled people. She was involved in lobbying the UK Government for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and continues to advise disabled people's organisations and human rights institutions on

national implementation and monitoring mechanisms required by the CRPD. She previously sat on the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's Children's Rights Review Advisory Group and the Children with Disabilities Strategic Alliance.



Professor Marie Parker Jenkins is Professor of Education in the Department of Education and Professional Studies, University of Limerick, researching issues of social justice with particular reference to race and ethnicity. She taught in five universities before coming to Limerick. She has also taught in Bermuda, Canada and Australia where she obtained practical

knowledge of children from culturally diverse backgrounds. She is the author of over 100 publications including books, reports and journal articles. Her research has included a study of the expansion of religious schools, particularly those based on an Islamic and Jewish ethos. In her consultancy capacity, she has provided workshops on such subjects as citizenship, community and identity.



Ms Deirdre O'Connor currently works in the Legal, Industrial Relations and Equality Section of the Irish National Teachers Organisation head office, primarily on case work, advising and representing members in employment matters. She was recently appointed Equality Officer. She has worked for the INTO in various areas since 2002, including professional development, Special

Education and the co-ordination of INTO trade union training.



Ms Joan McCombe joined the staff of St. Mary's University College in Belfast in 2008 as the Widening Access and Participation Coordinator. Before taking up this position she taught Religious Studies and was Vice-Principal (pastoral) in a large co-ed post primary school in County Down. Her current role contributes to both the College's and the government's objective

to increase participation in higher education from students from lower socio-economic backgrounds, mature students and students with disabilities. She ensures that students are appropriately supported during their transition to and journey through higher education. She is involved with Local Area Learning Partnerships which work to raise personal aspiration and achievement in young people, and is a member of the Department for Employment and Learning's Widening Participation (Recruitment and Retention) Working Group.



Mr John Hunter is the Managing Inspector for Special Education and Inclusion in the Northern Ireland Education and Training Inspectorate. He was formerly principal of two special schools, one in the Republic of Ireland. Before that he was a primary school teacher and Head of Remedial English in a post primary school. He is also a former



tutor on autism, learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties courses at the University of Birmingham.



Ms Áine Lawlor was appointed Chief Executive of the Teaching Council in 2004. The Council is a self-financing, statutory body established under the Teaching Council Act, 2001 to promote and regulate the teaching profession in Ireland. Her career in education has included roles as teacher, school principal and national coordinator of an in-service programme.

Her current role involves working closely with the partners in education at national level, with teacher educators in colleges and universities and with professional bodies and networks. She is currently an Irish representative on the Teacher Education for Inclusion project under the European Agency for the Development of Special Needs Education.

Ms Lawlor graduated from Mary Immaculate College in 1969. She holds a H.Dip.Ed., Dip.Ed.Admin. and MA (1st hons) from NUI Maynooth where she is currently undertaking a PhD on continuing professional development for teachers.



Professor Teresa O'Doherty is Dean of Education at Mary Immaculate College/ University of Limerick, where she is responsible for the academic and administrative leadership of a large education faculty with almost 70 academic staff and 2,000 students. After completing her degree in education at Mary Immaculate College in 1984, Professor O'Doherty taught

in the primary sector for more than a decade. She completed her Master's in Education at NUI Maynooth in 1989 and was subsequently awarded her PhD at the University of Limerick in 1997. She is a member of a wide range of academic, professional and administrative committees at a regional and national level and is the Southern Co-Chair of SCoTENS. She has held a number of academic appointments including Lecturer in Education and Assistant Dean for Research at University of Limerick. Professor O'Doherty's research interests are in the history of Irish education. Her doctoral research examined the administration of Irish education during the period 1899-1920.



Professor John Coolahan is Professor Emeritus at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. He is author of a number of books and has published over 100 articles in Irish and international journals. He was Secretary General and Chief Rapporteur of the National Education Convention (1993-1994); and one of the authors of the Green Paper on Adult

Education(1998) and the White Paper Learning for Life (2000). He was Secretary General of the National Forum on Early Childhood Education (1998). He also served on the Review Body on Post-Primary Education in Northern Ireland. He was the author of the Irish Background Report for the OECD study Attracting Developing and Retaining Effective Teachers (2003) and for the OECD study Higher Education in Ireland (2004). His

book *Irish Education: History and Structure* is the authoritative work on the history of education in Ireland. He has led a number of OECD review teams on education in countries in Eastern Europe, South Korea and Chile. He is the co-founder of SCOTENS with Professor Harry McManus of University of Ulster.



Professor John Furlong, a former London comprehensive school teacher, has been Director of the Department of Education at Oxford University since 2003. He was a Lecturer in the Sociology of Education at Cambridge University for 11 years before taking up his first Chair at Swansea University in 1992. In 1995 he moved to Bristol University, and joined the School of

Social Sciences at Cardiff University in 2000. He took up his current post as Director of the Oxford University Department of Education in 2003. Professor Furlong has directed 16 externally funded projects and participated as a research fellow in a further two. He was a member of the national executive of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers from 1994 to 1997, and in 1998 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He served as President of the British Educational Research Association in 2003-5. He was elected an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2003 and was a member of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise Education Sub-Panel. His research interests are e-learning and the informal use of new technology by adults and children learning at home. He is co-author of Adult Learning in the Digital Age (2005) and Screenplay: children and computing in the home (2003).



Professor Sir Tim Brighouse is the former Chief Education Officer for Birmingham and Schools Commissioner for London. He taught in grammar and secondary modern schools in Derbyshire and South Wales – where he became a deputy head at the age of 26 - before embarking on a distinguished career in educational administration. He was

Chief Education Officer in Oxfordshire (1978-1989) and Birmingham (1993-2002), and Professor of Education at Keele University from 1989 to 1993. From 2002 to 2007 he was Schools Commissioner for London, where he oversaw widescale increases in GCSE grades, particularly in schools in disadvantaged areas. He left behind the London Challenge, a scheme to make the city "a world leader in education" by offering extra support to 70 disadvantaged schools and five low-performing boroughs. Ofsted praised "the energising and inspirational example" of his work in Birmingham, which was "an example to all others of what can be done even in the most demanding urban environment." In 1993, while in Birmingham, he sued the then Conservative Education Secretary, John Patten, for saying he was a "madman let loose...frightening the children" and won substantial damages, which he gave to educational charities. His most recent book is How Successful Headteachers Survive and Thrive. He holds honorary degrees from the Open University, Oxford Brookes, Exeter, Warwick, Birmingham, West of England and Sheffield Hallam universities. He was knighted in 2009.





Dr Michael Dobbins has been the Principal of Foyle View School, a special school for pupils with severe learning difficulties in Derry, for the last 11 years. His research interests lie in school leadership and creating enabling environments within special schools. He has published articles on the development of effective homeschool relationships, the professional needs

of Learning Support Assistants, and the use of ICT to support international links between pupils with SEN. He has been the recipient of the Biggar Award in Education Studies from the University of Ulster, and in 2009 was awarded the Royal Air Force Award for Headteacher of the Year in a Secondary School (Northern Ireland). He is also the founding chairperson of the Liberty Consortium Derry, a nationally recognised organisation that supports community inclusion and development in the North-West.



Mr Maurice Doherty is Principal of Ballynahinch High School in County Down. His first teaching post was in Movilla High School, Newtownards. He taught science there and eventually became a year tutor, Head of Science, and then Head of Senior School. During his time there he took a part-time DASE in Educational Theory and an MEd in Psychology and Sociology at

Queen's University Belfast. This was followed by an MSc in Educational Management from the University of Ulster. He became Vice-Principal at Glastry College in 1996 and was appointed to his current post in 1999.



Ms Mary Dunlea Fitzgerald is a primary teacher with over 20 years teaching experience. She has taught in a variety of schools, including a large urban school with disadvantaged status, a small rural school and a multi-denominational school. She was seconded to the Primary Curriculum Support Programme in 2004 where she worked as a trainer and advisor in the

area of learning support. In 2006 she was assigned the role of DEIS advisor to a number of schools with disadvantaged status in Limerick City and Clare. This role involved delivering training to mainstream and support teachers in First Steps Writing, Reading, Speaking and Listening, and Ready Set Go Maths. As a DEIS advisor she delivered support in both literacy and numeracy as well as helped schools identify areas for development in a three year DEIS Action Plan. In 2009 she was appointed Principal of St. Tola's National School in Shannon, Co. Clare, a 15 teacher school with 226 pupils.



Ms Anna Fitzgerald is a newly qualified teacher who completed a BEd in Education and Psychology at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, in 2010. Anna has a particular interest in SEN and inclusion. She is currently engaged in substitution work.



Professor Tony Gallagher has recently been appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Academic Planning, Staffing and External Affairs at Queen's University Belfast. He first joined Queen's as a Lecturer in Education in 1992 and was appointed to a Chair in 1999. In 2005 he became Head of the School of Education. His main research interest lies in the role of education in societies

marked by ethnic conflict, although he is also interested more generally in issues of equality and social inclusion in education. Most of his research has been carried out in Northern Ireland, although he has also worked in the Middle East, with Israeli and Palestinian educators, and in South East Europe. He has acted as a consultant for many government departments, non-governmental public bodies, voluntary and community organizations, and a range of international organizations. His current main work involves the exploration of effective methods of school collaboration to raise standards and promote new relationships across denominational divisions in Northern Ireland.



Professor Sheelagh Drudy recently retired as Professor of Education at University College Dublin. She has been a member of a number of national and international committees and working groups on teaching and teacher education including the Teaching Council (Ireland), the Standing Committee of University Heads of Education, and the Education Working

Group of the EU Tuning Project: Changing the Structures of Higher Education in Europe. She has published numerous books and peer-reviewed papers on education, nationally and internationally, including on the sociology of education, gender, class, teacher education and inclusion. Her books include *Men and the Classroom: Gender Imbalances in Teaching* (co-authored with M. Martin, M. Woods and J.O'Flynn, 2005); *Educational Provision and Support for Persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorders: the Report of the Task Force on Autism* (co-authored with Expert Group, 2002); *Schools and Society in Ireland*, (co-authored with K. Lynch, 1993). Her most recent book in which she is both editor and contributor is *Education in Ireland: Challenge and Change* (2009).



NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

It is particularly appropriate that 10 years on from the highly successful cross-border conference ('Invitational Conference for Teacher Education Professionals, North and South') which led (in 2002) to the founding of SCoTENS, that we are back in the same hotel in Belfast, and that we are discussing the vital subject of Teacher Education for Inclusion. The two central questions of this year's conference are: What kind of teachers do we need for an inclusive society in a 21st century school? What are the essential teacher competences for inclusive education?

'The demands on schools and teachers are becoming more complex as society now expects schools to deal effectively with different languages and student backgrounds; to be sensitive to culture and gender issues; to promote tolerance and social cohesion; to respond effectively to disadvantaged students and students with learning or behavioural problems; to use new technologies; and to keep pace with rapidly developing fields of knowledge and approaches to student assessment. Teachers therefore need confidence in their ability and the knowledge and skills in inclusive education to meet the challenges that they will encounter in the present school climate'. (Teachers Matter: Attracting, Developing and Retaining Effective Teachers, OECD, 2005)

This conference will afford delegates and specialist commentators from the teacher education community across the island of Ireland and internationally an opportunity to engage at first hand with the initial findings of the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education project on 'Teacher Education for Inclusion', whose opening workshop, with Department of Education officials from both Irish jurisdictions, was held in Dublin in October 2009. These findings include an emphasis on the training of mainstream teachers for work in inclusive settings.

The European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education is an independent organization established by the EU Member States (with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland) to act as a platform for collaboration in the development of provision for learners with special educational needs.

A key outcome of the project and of this conference will be to provide information on best policy and practice in Ireland, North and South, in supporting all teachers to be inclusive teachers, including recommendations for policy makers, for teacher training institutions and other teacher educators.

Tom Hesketh Teresa O'Doherty



Speakers at the 2009 SCoTENS Conference – 'Reflective Practice: Challenges for Teacher Education'. From left to right:

Dr Tom Hesketh, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Sean Haughey TD, Professor Andrew Pollard and

Professor Teresa O'Dohertv.



SCOTENS COMMITTEE (2010-2011)

Professor Teresa O'Doherty and Dr Tom Hesketh (joint chairs)
Dr Anne Heaslett, Dr Geraldine Magennis, Dr Anne Taheny, Ms Marie McLoughlin
Professor John Coolahan, Dr Linda Clarke, Professor John Gardner, Professor Marie Parker Jenkins, Dr Kathy Hall,
Dr Michael Shevlin, Mr Eddie McArdle, Dr Philomena Donnelly, Ms Áine Lawlor, Mr Andy Pollak

SPONSORS

The Department of Education and Skills, Dublin; the Department for Employment and Learning, Belfast; the Department of Education, Bangor.

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CONTACTS

The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS)

The Secretary of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South is Andy Pollak, and its Administrator is Patricia McAllister. They can be contacted at the **Centre for Cross Border Studies**, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh, BT61 7EB

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