



Irish Primary PE Association

Cumann Corpoideachais Bunscoile na hÉireann

IPPEA Learning Community on Inclusion

The Irish Primary Physical Education Association launched the **IPPEA Learning Community on Inclusion** at the IPPEA conference Saturday 29th February 2020 Mary Immaculate College.

The IPPEA learning community on inclusion welcomes any interested IPPEA member (see below)

The aims of the group are to:

1. develop a community of teachers with a shared interest in inclusion in physical education
2. share experiences on inclusion in physical education teaching
3. help other teachers who require assistance in inclusion in physical education lessons
4. share resources
5. build on inclusive strategies in physical education

Sharing platforms will include:

- One to one email exchanges
- Online platform meetings, e.g. Skype
- Face to face workshops
- IPPEA social media and newsletter postings to share practices
- Information on the IPPEA website sub tab

Claire Heffernan & Susan Marron, IPPEA committee members will lead the learning community organisation. Here is list of teachers who are on board to commence the network. If you have any query related to inclusion **or** if you wish to join the team below to offer support to other teachers, we would be delighted to hear from you to build our members please email **irishprimarype@gmail.com**



Claire Heffernan has been involved in the area of special needs for over twenty years. Having worked at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland, Claire has remained involved in Special Olympics and has been part of Team Ireland both as a coach and management at numerous European and World Games, the most recent being the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi. Claire has worked in a mainstream Junior School teaching PE for thirteen years and is currently working between two Special Schools in Dublin teaching PE. Claire is also an accreditator with the Active Schools Flag, with specific responsibility for Special Schools.



Catherine Mc Bride has taught in Ireland for six years as a Primary school teacher and is now teaching in the UAE. As a part of the Master of Teaching degree DCU, she conducted research relating to inclusive practice in physical education with a particular focus on a child Ben who is a wheelchair user. She created a programme of 8 athletics lesson plans aimed to maximise the inclusion of all children including Ben.



Róisín Kelly is a primary school teacher with a Masters in Adapted Physical Education. She has delivered courses on behalf of CARA on how to include children with autism in physical activity. She has also made a teaching resource that is available online: Episode 75: Inclusion in physical education: Dancing with your eyes (December 2018). It is an interview with Róisín Kelly, and Susan Marron a lecturer of Physical Education at The Institute of Education Dublin City University. Róisín describes the teaching strategies that she implements in her teaching to develop meaningful Physical Education learning experiences for her pupils with Special Education Needs. The resource was inspired by Dr. Frances Murphy also a lecturer of Physical Education at the School of Arts Education and Movement. <https://theinclusionclub.com/inclusion-in-physical-education-dancing-with-your-eyes/>



Kathleen Tonge Fitzgerald is a qualified PE teacher and taught initially for 10 years in Loreto College Cavan. She then moved to Kerry and taught PE in local primary schools before moving to St. Francis Special School where she has been teaching PE for the past 20 years. Kathleen has much experience of teaching students with a broad range of SEN. She is looking forward to sharing her knowledge and resources acquired from her school teaching and her involvement with the local Special Olympics club in Killarney.

