



Irish Primary PE Association

Cumann Corpoideachais Bunscoile na hÉireann

The IPPEA Learning Community on Inclusion Teacher Panel (updated 24th February 2025)

Below are some teachers who have volunteered to advise teachers who require assistance to include children with additional needs in their Physical Education lessons.

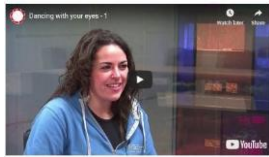


Claire Heffernan has been involved in the area of special needs for over twenty years. Having worked at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland, Claire has remained involved in Special Olympics and has been part of Team Ireland both as a coach and management at numerous European and World Games, the most recent being the 2024 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Berlin. 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 accreditor with the Active Schools Flag, with specific responsibility for Special Schools.



Catherine McBride has worked as a Primary school teacher for eleven years. Four of these were spent teaching in the UAE. As a part of the Master of Teaching degree in DCU, she conducted research relating to inclusive practice in physical education with a particular focus on a child, Ben, who is a wheelchair user with ASD. She created a programme of 8 athletics lesson plans, with 4 complementary SPHE lesson plans. These aimed to maximise the inclusion of all children in the mainstream classroom, including Ben. Watch Inclusion in Physical Education – A Primary Teachers Actions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2dbyyrLXB0>



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. Video – Inclusion in Physical Education – Dancing with your eyes 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjVAGDBaVgE>



Sean Gallagher is a secondary school Physical Education teacher with huge experience teaching students with visual impairments in Rosmini Community School, Drumcondra, Dublin, Ireland. Sean has developed two very informative resources for teachers to help them teach quality Physical Education to include all children and especially those with visual impairments. In one online video Discover, Invent, Describe and Feel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uHjd4r-mZ8> Sean describes his journey teaching PE to secondary school young people with a focus on meaningful inclusion of young people with visual impairments in PE lessons. Sean brings the TREE model of inclusion to life through practical demonstrations of how to adapt the teaching style, rules, the environment and equipment to include all young people in a meaningful PE programme where all are engaged and learning. He explains how his work is applicable to both primary and secondary school students. Sean has since been involved in developing a further resource Vision Impaired Physical Education Guide. https://www.dippe.lu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Vision_Impaired_Education.pdf



Susan Marron, is a Physical Education teacher with 12 years teaching experience at school level and many years a lecturer in Physical Education with primary student teachers at DCU. She was one of the partners in the Erasmus + research and the development of the Disentangling Inclusion in Primary Physical Education website resource for teachers <https://www.dippe.lu/> and has published a number of articles related to inclusion in Physical Education.