



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Irish Aid

WorldWise
Global
Schools

School Leadership Symposium 2026



Ignite the Fire of Critical Global Citizenship Education



Iveagh House, Dublin 2



29th April



10:00AM - 2:00PM

For Post-Primary Settings



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School Leadership Symposium 2026

Agenda

10.00am	<i>Registration and Tea/Coffee</i>
10.30am	Introduction and Welcome - Minister of State with responsibility for International Development and Diaspora, Neale Richmond will open the event. Dr. Katie Chapple will give an overview of the day.
10.45am	Explore 'Ignite the Fire of critical Global Citizenship Education (GCE)'
11.00am	Panel 1 - 'A critical GCE lens into international orphanage volunteering': a panel led by Comhlámh on the End Orphanage Campaign
12.00pm	<i>Tea/Coffee Break and Group Reflection</i>
12.30pm	Panel 2 - 'Ignite the Fire of critical GCE' in your post-primary setting with a panel of Principals.
1.15pm	Closing Remarks
1.30pm	Networking Lunch
2.00pm	Event Close

Meet the Moderators



EMMA LYNCH, TEARFUND

Emma Lynch works with INGO Tearfund Ireland where she coordinates the Global Citizenship Education programme. Tearfund Ireland works with global partners to keep children in family and community and out of institutional care. Having spent a number of years volunteering overseas in Nepal, Emma has been involved the development sector in Ireland since 2007. Emma co-convenes the Comhlámh End Orphanage Volunteering Working Group and is a member of the Rethink Orphanages Global Community of Practice.



PAUL CRONE, NAPD

Paul Crone is the Director of the National Association of Principals and Deputies, NAPD. Previously Paul was the Director of Schools for the City of Dublin Education and Training Board and before that he spent 11 years as Principal in Old Bawn Community School. Paul has experience supporting and representing school leaders through his work on the executive committee of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools, ACCS, through his work with the Professional Development Service for Teachers, PDST and the Centre for School Leadership, CSL.

Paul started his career as a teacher of woodwork graduating from the University of Limerick in 1991 with first class honours. In 2008 he completed the post graduate diploma in school leadership and more recently the post graduate certificate in governance. Paul has extensive experience in school leadership at both local school and system level.

Panel 1:

Exploring the harm caused by orphanage visits and volunteering through a GCE lens

Led by the Comhlámh End Orphanage Volunteering Working Group

The idea of ‘giving back’ or ‘making a difference’ by volunteering overseas is well known in Ireland. Over the years, many Irish schools have supported orphanages through school trips and fundraising appeals. Although it is usually done with the best of intentions, research shows that orphanage visits help to fuel a system that separate children from their families and harms their development. Even well run, well-resourced, orphanages with staff that care about the children cannot replace the care and stability of family-based care in the community. This panel, led by the Comhlámh End Orphanage Volunteering Working Group, will explore this through a critical GCE lens and consider how we work together to put children first.

Meet the Panelists



FIACHRA BRENNAN, COMHLÁMH

Fiachra Brennan is the Solidarity and Capacity Development Coordinator for Comhlámh, the Irish Association of Development Workers and Volunteers. Fiachra coordinates the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice, working to promote international volunteering that is values-led and grounded in Global Citizenship Education approaches. Fiachra co-convenes the Comhlámh End Orphanage Volunteering Working Group.



NOELLE MORAN, ASTI

Noelle Moran is a secondary school teacher of Gaelige and Accounting in Co. Galway. She has been an active member of the Association of Secondary Teachers, Ireland (ASTI) throughout her career. Having been a member of the ASTI executive for many years she is currently an elected officer, ASTI Honorary Treasurer. An ASTI nominee to the Teaching Council between 2018 and 2022; she was elected Deputy Chairperson and Chairperson of Council during two separate terms of office.

Noelle set up the ASTI Global Solidarity Committee in 2022. and she was one of the organisers of the inaugural ASTI Global Solidarity Seminar in Dublin on 28 February 2026.

Panel 2:

Ignite the Fire of critical GCE in your post-primary setting

A knowledge sharing session of best practice by a panel of principals, where they will discuss how they ignite the fire of GCE through policies, BOM, Parents/Guardians and of course dedicated staff and students.

Meet the Panelists



COLM O'CONNOR, CORK EDUCATE TOGETHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Colm O'Connor is the founding Principal of Cork ETSS, a role which he took up in 2016 following a secondment to the European School system in Brussels. Before that, Colm was a history and geography teacher in Coláiste Chríost Rí, during which time he was an anti-war and anti-racism campaigner and completed a MEd thesis on homophobia in schools. Colm has written multiple newspaper articles on the impact of religious indoctrination in the Irish primary school system and addressed the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna on the topic of "Promoting Tolerance and Non-Discrimination through Education and Co-operation".



GEORGINA KEENA-MCNULTY, ROSCOMMON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Georgina Keena-McNulty is an educational leader with over 30 years experience and currently serves as Principal of Roscommon Community College. She is committed to fostering inclusive, supportive learning environments where students and staff can thrive. She has led the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals across subject planning within the school. Under her leadership, students have achieved Globe Ireland Awards for three consecutive years. She has completed the SEAI Energy in Education Programme to strengthen sustainability practices. Her school has also been recognised with ten Green Flags for environmental excellence. She is currently a member of the GRET Climate Action Team.



CLAIRE MATTHEWS, FIRHOUSE EDUCATION TOGETHER

Claire Matthews has been principal of Firhouse ETSS since it opened in 2018. As a developing school, Claire is committed to considering people and planet when it comes to consultation, decision-making and action. With a coaching and regenerative leadership style, Claire is excited to learn from others and hopes that there will be positive ripple effects from the practice being undertaken in relation to GCE in Firhouse ETSS.