



LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2011

Index

Minutes of AGM 2009	2
Directors Report	3
Summary of Local	16
Summary of Activities in Centre excluding Local Programme	23
National Programmes	25
School Chaplains Association	37
Local Course Programme detail	38
ICT Programme detail	69
Audited Accounts	79

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2010**

Present: Kathleen O'Connor, Anne Buggie, Norma Booth, Paddy Bates, Majella Ffrench O'Connor, Mary Mahon, Dinah Kingsley, Marie Moran, Anne Marie Ryan, Jim Enright, Rosemary Day

Apologies: Mary McCarthy, Frank Bates, Ann Young, Niamh Campion, Camille King and John Moran

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

The Chairperson noted that finances were a constant challenge, but the continuation of the services of Laois Education Centre was extremely important to all teachers, as they offered essential support and up-to-date information. She congratulated the Centre on being so inclusive of all schools and pupils in their programmes and projects. She thanked the Management Committee, especially Paddy Bates for his work with the Centre website, Jim Enright, Director, and the staff of the Education Centre, for all their work throughout the year

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that expenditure had been reduced by €111,000 but that there was still a deficit of €31,000. She thanked Áine Hyland for her input into the production of accounts. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mary Mahon and seconded by Majella Ffrench O'Connor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director gave a full and comprehensive report on the extensive activities of the Centre in 2009: these were detailed in the Annual Report.

ADOPTION OF REVISED CONSTITUTION

The adoption of the Revised Constitution was proposed by Norma Booth and seconded by Mary Mahon.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Those present were elected to the Management Committee, with the addition of Fran Bates, Camille King, Niamh Campion and John Moran

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

It was proposed by Kathleen O'Connor and seconded by Dinah Kingsley that the auditors (Fingleton, Peters and Tyrell) should be retained for 2010.

The Chairperson and the Director were complimented by Dinah Kingsley on their efficiency and hard work.

The next Management Committee was arranged for Tuesday 2nd March at 4.45pm

Signed:

Jim Enright, Director

Kathleen O'Connor, Chairperson

Date:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2010 has been a very busy year for all in Laois Education Centre. It has been a year of growth, change and challenge, all of which have been embraced by both staff and management and responded to in a very committed and professional manner.

2010 witnessed many changes nationally, regionally and locally and saw the winding down of many support services that Education Centres have worked with in the past including PPDS, SDPI, SDI, LDS, SLSS, JCSP, RESS, JCPE, LCA, Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery and the Stay Safe Programme, all of which were replaced with a reconceptualised form of school support and teacher professional development. This new service which is called the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) sees a move to a generic and integrated cross-sectoral support which will operate on a regional basis, providing teacher professional development and school support through multi-disciplinary teams of seconded teachers, who will work in close co-operation with the Education Centre Network in responding to professional development needs identified by schools. The regional teams will also respond to needs identified as part of WSE and to current and future national system priorities. The capacity of the regional teams will be augmented by the work of local facilitators and associate trainers.

Laois Education Centre has been appointed the base administrative Centre for Region 5 for this new PDST service and will work with a team made up of one Regional Coordinator (Seán Gallagher) and eight Regional Advisors - Fiona Dunne, Dympna O'Byrne, Vincent Mulvey (DEIS Advisors), Íde Ruaidh, Ita Seoighe, Jenny Dooley-Ryan, Mags Nohilly and Sheila McManamly (Advisors). We wish this team all the best in the future.

2010 also witnessed the emergence of a National Induction Programme for Teachers / An Clár Náisiúnta Ionductaithe do Mhúinteoirí which commenced in September 2010 and is running in collaboration with the network of Education Centres. Through a series of eight workshops for newly qualified teachers (NQTs) during the academic year, this programme provides support in making a successful transition from an initial education programme to working as a fully registered teacher in a school. Other exciting developments emerged during the year like Aistear: The Early Childhood Curriculum Framework which was developed by the NCCA in partnership with the early childhood network and was rolled out nationally through Education Centres.

During 2010 the network of Education Centres was further consolidated with the redevelopment of the ATECI website (www.ateci.ie) in which each region and individual Education Centres have a profile page. Information about CPD course activities is available on this website and courses can be booked through the central online booking system.

Laois Education Centre was the first Centre outside Dublin to offer a Trinity Postgraduate Diploma. This practice continues as this year we had a large number and range of courses which carried external certification and in many cases Postgraduate Diploma or Master Programmes. The Centre provided a Trinity College Diploma in Leadership and Management in Education, Tóraíocht (a Postgraduate Diploma in Education Leadership (NUIM) and TL21 (NUIM). It also provided a Preparatory Certificate in English Language Teaching and An Scrudú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (SCG).

In the area of ICT, a wide range of exciting and innovative courses was offered such as – Using Skype in the classroom, Podcasting, courses on using Interactive Whiteboards in the classroom, ICT agus Gaeilge, Setting up and using a VLE like Moodle in the classroom, and seminars on developing an e-learning plan, to mention but a few. Laois Education Centre continued its partnership with Offaly County Enterprise Board in the provision of software and training in the development of school websites, and hosted an evening where schools involved presented their websites at a celebratory event in the Tullamore Court Hotel. Laois Education Centre hosted and administered the Computer Education Society of Ireland Conference in Portlaoise College in February 2010 with 250 delegates.

Overall course attendance levels were high. **3,074** Teachers attended our courses or support programmes giving a total of **21,492** contact hours. The Education Centre was also the venue for many external groups and services which accounted for a further **3,220** attendees with further contact hours of **15,441.5**, giving an overall total number of **6,294** participants for the year with **36,933.5** contact hours.

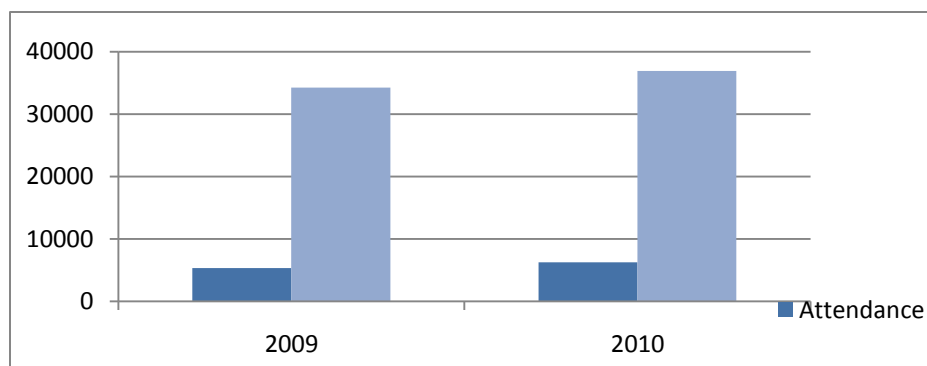


Figure 1: Attendance levels in Laois Education Centre

PROVISIONS AT LOCAL LEVEL 2010

<i>Behaviour Clinic</i>	<i>Making Visible the Judgments we use in assessing Students' Short Stories</i>
<i>From Marking Scheme 2009 to Everyday Classroom Practice - French Leaving Certificate Written Paper</i>	<i>Phonics – Sounds in Action</i>
<i>Strategies to Prepare Students for German Oral Examination</i>	<i>Attention and Concentration – Problems in Childhood</i>
<i>Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt!</i>	<i>Leaving Certificate Gaeilge Exam Workshop</i>
<i>An Cúrsa Nua Próis agus Filíochta don Ardteist – Léargas ar Cach Gné den Chúrsa</i>	<i>Psychological Reports and IEPs</i>
<i>Tóraíocht – A Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership</i>	<i>Improving your Child's Self-Esteem</i>
<i>Stories to help teach Primary Science</i>	<i>Supporting your Teenager through Secondary School</i>
<i>On a Board of Management and Uncertain About it?</i>	<i>Methods and Strategies in Approach to German Leaving Certificate Written Paper</i>
<i>Conflict Management Skills and Strategies</i>	<i>SafeTALK – Suicide Alertness</i>
<i>Guitar in the Primary Classroom</i>	<i>Art for Easter with a difference</i>
<i>A positive working environment for Teachers and SNAs working together to create a positive, progressive and harmonious school environment</i>	<i>National Gallery of Ireland Workshop</i>
<i>Arts and Crafts in the Primary Classroom</i>	<i>Preparatory Certificate in English Language Teaching</i>
<i>The Role of Gaelic Games in the Curriculum</i>	<i>Music Made Easy</i>
<i>Special Education in Mainstream Primary</i>	<i>Developing the emotionally intelligent pupil as a strategy for the prevention of substance misuse</i>
<i>Exploring our Environment and Culture</i>	<i>The Outdoor Classroom</i>
<i>Promoting Positive Behaviour in School</i>	<i>Occupational First Aid</i>
<i>Primary Science Workshops</i>	<i>Bullying/Cyber-Bullying – Intervention and Prevention</i>

<i>Manual Handling Operatives Course</i>	<i>Taking care of the Teacher</i>
<i>Feeling Low? Let Someone know – Suicide Resource Workshop</i>	<i>Mentoring</i>
<i>Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management Training Programme</i>	<i>Ceartú na Scrúdpháipéar 2010</i>
<i>Music Made Easy: Samba Drumming Workshop</i>	<i>Using ICT in the Post-Primary Classroom across a number of subject areas</i>
<i>Launch of New Maths Website and Support Group</i>	<i>The Diorama – with a Christmas and Winter Theme</i>
<i>Down Syndrome and Education</i>	<i>Managing People with Aggressive Behaviour</i>
<i>Aistear – New Curriculum</i>	<i>An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G)</i>
<i>TL21 – Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century Transfer Initiative Pilot Project (Year 2)</i>	<i>Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs</i>
<i>Practical Enterprise Programme based around the development of a School Website</i>	<i>Post-Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs</i>

PROVISIONS FOR PARENTS, PUPILS AND COMMUNITY 2010

<i>Improving your Child's Self-Esteem</i>	<i>Supporting your Teenager Through Post- Primary School</i>
<i>Board of Management Training</i>	<i>Safe Talk – Suicide Awareness</i>
<i>Co-operation is Cool</i>	<i>Write-A-Book</i>
<i>FIS</i>	<i>Scriobh Leabhar</i>
<i>Farm Safety Poster Competition</i>	<i>New Heritage Project</i>

PROVISIONS AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL 2010

<i>T4 Professional Development Programme</i>	<i>Special Education Support Service</i>
<i>Project Maths</i>	<i>School Chaplains Association</i>
<i>I-Note</i>	<i>Relationships and Sexuality Programme</i>
<i>CESI Annual Conference</i>	<i>Professional Development Service for Teachers</i>
<i>Regional Curriculum Support Service</i>	<i>Child Protection Guidelines</i>

CO-OPERATION AT LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL 2010

As in the previous years we have co-operated with and assisted with a number of Support Services and Programmes in the delivery of National and Regional Courses and In-service Training. These include:

- ▶ Primary Professional Development Service
- ▶ Second Level Support Service
- ▶ School Development Planning at Primary and Post-Primary Level
- ▶ Special Education Support Service
- ▶ T4 Technology Support Service
- ▶ Social, Personal and Health Education
- ▶ Church of Ireland College, Rathmines
- ▶ Leadership Development Support
- ▶ School Completion Programme
- ▶ Transition Year Support Team
- ▶ Health Promotion Unit
- ▶ NUI, Maynooth
- ▶ Trinity College
- ▶ Further Education Service
- ▶ Serco
- ▶ St Patrick's College
- ▶ Middletown Centre for Autism
- ▶ Laois and Offaly County Development Boards, Laois County Council, Laois Chamber of Commerce, Laois Enterprise Board, Laois and Offaly Enterprise Groups, Glanbia, Prison Education Unit, National Parents Council, Laois Principals Forum, John McNamee, Easons, Portlaoise.

CENTRE POLICIES

Management and Staff of Laois Education Centre continued to develop and review policies that are considered essential for the smooth and safe running of the Centre. Policies approved to date include:

- IBB Banking
- ICT and Local Course Registration
- Incoming and Outgoing Post
- Ordering and Purchasing of Goods
- Petty Cash
- Centre Communication
- Data Control
- Receipts of Cash
- Director Expenses
- Income Levy
- Summer Course fees for Management Committee
- Payroll Policy
- Centre Bookings Policy
- Policy on use of items in Resource Library
- Data Control
- Internet and email Policy
- Centre Communication Policy
- Child Protection Policy

It is envisaged that a Centre Handbook will be produced during 2011 which will include all of the above mentioned and future agreed policies.

BUILDING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSEKEEPING

Leaks and roof damage that had been previously identified were repaired during the year at a cost of €11,591 which was received from the Emergency Works Section of the Department of Education and Skills. O'Brien Brothers Builders commenced work in January making repairs and adjustments to the guttering around the building, the butyl roof and various other problem areas. This work appears to have been successful for the most part with the exception of the Resource Room which continues to present with small leaks. As a result of leaks there was considerable damage to plaster and paint work throughout the building. After a successful tender process Donal Bannon, Painting Contractor, Portlaoise, was contracted to repair and paint the interior of the building which has been completed.

The lack of sufficient car parking bays presented us with serious challenges during the year, particularly from a Health and Safety perspective. The Management Committee agreed to make an application to

Laois County Council for permission to increase the number of bays which was submitted in December 2010. Funding for the development of the car park was sought under the Emergency Works Scheme from the Building Unit of the Department of Education and Skills, but was refused. A funding application has since been submitted under the Summer Works Scheme 2011 and a response is awaited. We are also awaiting the outcome of the planning application from Laois County Council.

With health, safety and security in mind we continued the work commenced in 2009 by changing locks in the Centre to thumb nail locks. This work is now complete.

Storage continued to be a problem in 2010 and with this in mind Management agreed to have the storage shed insulated to a level where it would be suitable to store materials and resources. This work was completed during the first term and has proved successful.

This year saw increasing demands from external groups wishing to use the Centre and on a number of occasions we have been contacted by groups on behalf of FÁS looking for long term bookings. With this in mind we are looking at developing the former ICT Office as a second ICT room.

FINANCIAL ISSUES AND COST-SAVING MEASURES

Cost-saving measures have remained a priority for the Centre in 2010. Cost-cutting measures have been put in place where possible. In addition to the already considerable savings made in 2009 it was deemed necessary to further cut Centre expenditure. Management found themselves in a position where they had to examine Staff Payroll and explore areas where savings could be made in the fairest possible way to staff but yet keep the Centre running efficiently. Management made the decision to put staff on a 4 day week for 3 months in March, April and May, then a 3 day week for a further three months, June, July and August. All Staff went back on a 4 day week in September and remained on a 4 day week to the year end. Management decided that all staff would return to a 5 day week in January 2011.

Main areas where savings were made in 2010 were:

- Staff wages
- Cleaning , Caretaking and Premises Maintenance
- Consultancy and Audit Fees
- Light, Heat and Phone
- Insurance
- Postage
- Office Supplies
- ICT Maintenance Contract

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER STAFF MATTERS

2010 proved to be an extremely busy year for staff of Laois Education Centre. As previously mentioned it became necessary to place our administration staff on a four-day and three-day week for some of this year. In spite of this the staff managed to successfully complete their normal working duties and programmes albeit sometimes under pressure.

Laois Education Centre was appointed as the base administrative Centre for Region 5 PDST during the year. This has meant significant changes to work allocations and practices. The staff were very happy to work with the Director on proposed new changes to individual work practices.

Management of Laois Education Centre is committed to continuing professional and personal development for its staff. 2010 presented little opportunity for any such development, given the pressure of workloads in a shorter working week. However staff members attended ICT training in NCTE on a number of occasions during the year.

Staff meetings and briefing sessions were held at regular intervals during the year, where Director and staff dealt with issues such as workloads, HR issues, contracts, CPD plans and other Centre activities. These meetings are considered very important in the promotion of awareness of the various activities that are ongoing in the Centre.

The revision of staff contracts is now at the end of its process and contracts are ready for signing. Agreement on all items has been reached amicably by both management and staff.

WHAT MAKES IT ALL WORTHWHILE

There have been many marked and memorable moments during 2010 but undoubtedly the most memorable experiences involved our celebratory exhibitions at the end of our many projects which involved pupil attendance. There was obvious excitement, joy and pride and often tension evident in the faces of the students as they awaited a result, an announcement, or as they viewed other schools' projects or films. Examples of such projects are FÍS where school-directed and produced films were shown in the Storm Cinema, Portlaoise to an audience of over 300 students and teachers, Co-operation is Cool which involved **360** students from **9** primary and post-primary schools, Write-A-Book Project which saw over **800** teachers, parents and pupils converge on the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise and **400** on Racket Hall, Roscrea to celebrate the publication of **1350** books by **1432** pupils from **33** schools in our region. Also in continuing a long tradition and on a lighter note the year ended with a very memorable moment for the children of the Management and Staff of the Centre, with a visit from Santa on 21st December 2010.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS 2010 CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Shanahoe N.S. Write-A-Book Awards



Broughill N.S. at P.E.P Awards



VTOS Tullamore FIS entry



Clonlisk N.S. FIS Award



Castlecuffe N.S. Write-A-Book Awards



Scoil Naomh Eoin, Birr Co-operation is Cool

LOOKING AHEAD

While we continually review and refine the work practices of the Education Centre, we will also continue to identify programmes of support for all the educational partners locally, regionally and nationally.

We will continue to implement whatever changes are deemed necessary to ensure not only the survival but also the growth of the Education Centre in these very challenging times. At the same time we respond to the needs of the local and regional community that we strive to serve.

As a response to the findings of the 'Draft National Plan to Improve Literacy and Numeracy in Schools' where it has been established that a concerted national effort is required to improve the literacy and numeracy for our young people, Laois Education Centre in collaboration with PDST has put plans in place to initiate a pilot project on 'Planning for Literacy and Numeracy' involving five of our primary schools with a view to exploring the planning process for numeracy and literacy.

We look forward to another successful year.

POST-PRIMARY LOCAL PROVISIONS FOR 2011

- ▶ Tóraíocht – A Postgraduate Diploma in Education Leadership
- ▶ Assessment for Learning (AFL)
- ▶ Guitar in the Classroom
- ▶ National Induction Programme for Newly Qualified Post-Primary Teachers
- ▶ Teaching Happiness: Positive Psychology in Your Classroom
- ▶ Using a Data Projector and the Internet in the French Classroom
- ▶ Contact Space Questions in Junior and Senior Cycle Maths
- ▶ Archaeology: Time in Transition – It's about Time 2
- ▶ Multicultural Society Germany for Leaving Certificate German
- ▶ Heritage in Schools Project
- ▶ Diploma in Leadership and Management in Education
- ▶ Highlights of the National Gallery's Collection
- ▶ LCVP Workshops
- ▶ TL21 Transfer Initiative New Project
- ▶ Ceartú na Scrúdpháipéar
- ▶ Supporting your Child in Post-Primary School to Study
- ▶ Numeracy and Literacy
- ▶ Transition from Primary to Post-Primary
- ▶ SNAs communicating with children with ASD
- ▶ Junior Certificate Oral Irish

- ▶ FIS
- ▶ Write-A-Book
- ▶ Heritage Project
- ▶ Scríobh Leabhar
- ▶ Co-operation is Cool

PRIMARY LOCAL PROVISIONS FOR 2011

- ▶ Tóraíocht – A Postgraduate Diploma in Education Leadership
- ▶ Art for Easter with a Difference
- ▶ Guitar in the Primary Classroom
- ▶ Teaching Happiness: Positive Psychology in your Classroom
- ▶ Go Mental for Maths
- ▶ Oral Language in Primary Schools
- ▶ Go Green in the Classroom
- ▶ Primary Science Workshops
- ▶ Supporting Children attending Learning Support in the Mainstream Classroom
- ▶ Aistear – New Curriculum
- ▶ National Induction Programme for Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)
- ▶ Scríobh Leabhar Project
- ▶ Co-operation is Cool Project
- ▶ Write-A-Book
- ▶ FIS
- ▶ Arts and Crafts in Primary School
- ▶ Music: Samba
- ▶ School Gardening
- ▶ Our Environment and Culture
- ▶ Literacy and Numeracy
- ▶ PE in the Primary School
- ▶ Science
- ▶ National Gallery Collection
- ▶ Write-A-Book
- ▶ Heritage Project
- ▶ Diploma in Leadership and Management in Education
- ▶ Co-operation is Cool

LOCAL ICT PROVISIONS FOR 2011

- ▶ ICT and Maths
- ▶ Smart Board Training
- ▶ Whole School Training
- ▶ Website x 5
- ▶ Web 2.0
- ▶ Scoilnet & Online Encyclopaedias
- ▶ Post-Primary Principal Seminars
- ▶ Computer Maintenance
- ▶ ICT and Language
- ▶ Network Management
- ▶ Interactive Whiteboard Training
- ▶ Powerpoint
- ▶ Using the Interactive White Board
- ▶ Creating and using ICT Resources for Literacy
- ▶ ICT and Special Needs
- ▶ Creating and using ICT Resources for Literacy

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the Chairperson, Kathleen O'Connor, Treasurer, Marie Moran, our Executive subcommittee and members of our Management Committee for their commitment and very hard work during the past year.

The success of the Centre and the image it has in the community relies very heavily on the administration team of Áine, Yvonne, Catherine and Margaret Mary . I would like to thank them for their support, the professional manner in which they execute their duties, their team work, their willingness to adopt change, their continuous good humour and the courtesy they demonstrate to all clients of the centre.

Thank you to the many tutors who worked with us during the year and a special word of welcome to the new tutors who have come on board over the past year.

Thanks to the Principals and Boards of Management of the many outreach centres we have used during the year.

Thanks to Shelagh Maher and her staff for their services over the past year. We would like to wish Ber Fahey, who finished with Rosemount Catering during the summer every success in the future. Ber has

worked in the Centre with Rosemount Catering since its opening. I would also like to welcome her replacement Sharon Maher.

I would like to say a special thank you and bid a fond farewell to Todor Panayotov, who worked with us as the Centre Caretaker for over eight years. Todor was an invaluable member of staff who demonstrated courtesy and respect to the many visitors and course attendees over the years and who executed his duties with professionalism and an incredible attention to detail. I wish him well on his return to his native Bulgaria. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mick Tynan, who has taken over the role of Centre Caretaker. Mick joined us in November and brings many new skills to the role of Caretaker.

Thanks are also due to Geraldine Bergin, the Centre cleaner. Geraldine maintains a very high standard of cleaning and takes pride in ensuring that the Centre always looks its best.

Thank are also due to Gerry Kerry for his outdoor caretaking services. Gerry takes pride in the appearance of the Centre.

I wish to thank our neighbours in the Cúisle Centre for their co-operation with regard to car parking on many occasions. Their accommodation is much appreciated.

Thank you to all the teachers, parents, SNAs and members of various Boards of Managements who attended our courses during the year and who gave very relevant feedback.

Thank you to Jerome Morrissey and his colleagues at the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE).

Thanks to all the staff of the Teacher Education Section (TES) Department of Education and Skills for their support during the year. A special word of welcome to Eddie Ward (Principal Officer TES) who has replaced Dr Alan Wall and I wish Alan every success in his new role as Director with the Department of Education and Skills.

Go raibh mile maith agaibh

Jim Enright

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARISES THE LOCAL COURSE PROGRAMME DESIGNED AND DELIVERED IN 2010

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Total Attended</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
<i>An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G)</i>	<i>Jan – Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>197.5</i>
<i>Diploma in Leadership and Management with Trinity College: Leading and Managing Learning in Schools</i>	<i>8th & 9th Jan, 12th & 13th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Behaviour Clinic</i>	<i>3rd Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Practical Enterprise Programme based around the development of a School Website</i>	<i>3rd Feb 10</i>	<i>Tullamore Court Hotel</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>105</i>
<i>French Leaving Certificate Higher Level Written Paper</i>	<i>4th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>46</i>
<i>Judgments we use in Assessing Students' Short Stories</i>	<i>9th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>37.5</i>
<i>TL21 How to set up and use Moodle in a school setting</i>	<i>9th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Phonics Workshop–‘ Sounds in Action’</i>	<i>10th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Strategies to prepare German Oral Examination</i>	<i>11th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Attention and Concentration Problems in Childhood</i>	<i>23rd Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>On A Board of Management and Uncertain About it?</i>	<i>23rd Feb, 2nd & 9th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>171</i>
<i>Improving your Child's Self-Esteem</i>	<i>25th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>72</i>
<i>An Cúrsa Nua Próis agus Filíochta don Ardteist (faoi scrúdú in 2012)</i>	<i>24th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>125</i>

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Total Attended</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
<i>Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt!</i>	<i>22nd Feb, 1st, 8th & 15th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Tóraíocht – A Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership</i>	<i>1st Mar 10</i>	<i>Racket Hall Hotel Roscrea</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Supporting your Teenager through Post- Primary School</i>	<i>2nd & 9th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Safe Talk – Suicide Awareness</i>	<i>3rd Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>Art for Easter</i>	<i>8th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>TL21 – Co-operative Learning</i>	<i>9th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Stories to help teach Primary Science</i>	<i>10th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Methods and Strategies in approach to German Leaving Certificate Written Paper</i>	<i>10th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>Co-operation is Cool</i>	<i>11th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Conflict Management Skills and Strategies</i>	<i>24th Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Guitar in Primary Classroom</i>	<i>12th, 19th 16th Apr & 10th May 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>TL21 – Coaching and Mentoring</i>	<i>13th Apr 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>A Positive Working Environment for Teachers and SNAs Working Together to Create a Positive, Progressive and Harmonious School Environment</i>	<i>14th & 21st Apr 10</i>	<i>Day's Hotel, Tullamore</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>Diploma in Leadership and Management in Education with Trinity: Leading and Managing Human Relations</i>	<i>16th & 17th Apr, 7th & 8th May 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>260</i>

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Total Attended</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
<i>Highlights of National Gallery's Collection</i>	<i>21st Apr 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>LCVP Workshop</i>	<i>22nd Apr 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Write-A-Book</i>	<i>27th Apr & 5th May</i>	<i>Racket Hall, Roscrea & Portlaoise Heritage Hotel</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>115.5</i>
<i>Oral Language</i>	<i>20th May 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Preparatory Certificate in English Language Teaching</i>	<i>22nd & 29th May, 4th & 5th Jun 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>96</i>
<i>FIS</i>	<i>26th May 10</i>	<i>Storm Cinema</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Arts and Crafts in Primary School</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>St Francis School</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>460</i>
<i>Music Made Easy</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Scoil Mhuire, Portlaoise</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>Special Education in Mainstream Primary</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>660</i>
<i>The Role of Gaelic Games in the Curriculum</i>	<i>5th – 9th Jul 10</i>	<i>Portlaoise GAA Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>Arts and Crafts in Primary School</i>	<i>5th – 9th Jul 10</i>	<i>Scoil Mhuire, Tullamore</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>360</i>
<i>Exploring our Environment and Culture</i>	<i>5th – 9th Jul 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>340</i>
<i>Developing Emotional Intelligence in Primary School</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>The Outdoor Classroom</i>	<i>8th – 14th Jul 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>280</i>
<i>Promoting Positive Behaviour in School</i>	<i>23rd – 27th Aug 10</i>	<i>Day's Hotel, Tullamore</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>320</i>
<i>Occupational First Aid</i>	<i>23rd – 27th Aug 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>TL21 Transfer Initiative New Project</i>	<i>21st Sept 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>102</i>

Course Title	Dates	Venue	Total Attended	Contact Hours
<i>Tóraíocht – A Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership</i>	<i>Sept – Dec 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>693</i>
<i>Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs: Now that I am a teacher....</i>	<i>28th Sept 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs: Classroom Management and Organisation</i>	<i>12th & 14th Oct 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>88</i>
<i>Primary Science</i>	<i>5th, 12th, 19th Oct & 2nd Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>TL21 Transfer Initiative New Project</i>	<i>12th Oct 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>Bullying / Cyber Bullying</i>	<i>13th Oct 10</i>	<i>Central Hotel, Tullamore</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Manual Handling</i>	<i>13th Oct 10</i>	<i>Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Diploma in Leadership and Management with Trinity: Leadership and Management in Education</i>	<i>15th & 16th Oct, 12th & 13th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>180</i>
<i>An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G)</i>	<i>Nov – Dec 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>New Maths Web-Based Resources</i>	<i>19th Oct 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Manual Handling</i>	<i>19th Oct 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Feeling Low? Let Someone Know – Suicide Resource Workshop</i>	<i>20th Oct 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Post-Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs: Introduction to the Programme</i>	<i>20th Oct 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>12.5</i>
<i>Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs: Planning and Preparation</i>	<i>2nd & 4th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>104</i>

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Total Attended</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
<i>Taking Care of the Teacher</i>	<i>3rd, 10th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Incredible Years</i>	<i>2nd & 23rd Nov & 14th Dec 10</i>	<i>Central Hotel, Tullamore</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>154</i>
<i>Mentoring</i>	<i>6th 13th & 20th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>270</i>
<i>Music Made Easy: Samba Drumming</i>	<i>8th, 15th Nov 10</i>	<i>Scoil Bhride BNS, Tullamore</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Scríobh Leabhar</i>	<i>8th, 15th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Ceartú na Scrúdpháipéar</i>	<i>9th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>72.5</i>
<i>New Maths Website and Support Group</i>	<i>16th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Using ICT in the Post-Primary Classroom across a number of subject areas</i>	<i>17th Nov 10</i>	<i>Coláiste Phobal, Roscrea</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>135</i>
<i>Down Syndrome and Education</i>	<i>17th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>The Diorama – With a Christmas and Winter Theme</i>	<i>23rd Nov & 14th Dec 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs: Working with Parents</i>	<i>23rd & 25th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>104</i>
<i>TL21 Transfer Initiative New Project</i>	<i>23rd Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>Aistear: New Curriculum</i>	<i>24th Nov, 9th Dec 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Post-Primary National Induction Programme: Special Needs and the use of ICT and Relationships with Parents</i>	<i>24th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Managing People with Aggressive Behaviour</i>	<i>8th Dec 10</i>	<i>Scoil Mhuire, Portlaoise</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Post-Primary National Induction Programme: Special Needs and the Use of ICT and Relationships with Parents</i>	<i>15th Dec 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>22.5</i>

ICT PROVISION DELIVERED IN 2010

<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Total Attended</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
<i>Using Website X5 To Create a School Website</i>	<i>18th & 25th Jan 10</i>	<i>Gaelscoil, Tullamore</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>27.5</i>
<i>ICT and Gaeilge (Post-Primary)</i>	<i>20th Jan – 3rd Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Seminars for Primary Principals on Planning for ICT</i>	<i>2nd Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>140</i>
<i>Seminars for Primary Principals on Planning for ICT</i>	<i>4th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>110</i>
<i>Seminars for Primary Principals on Planning for ICT</i>	<i>5th Feb 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>Podcasting</i>	<i>1st Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>32.5</i>
<i>Special Needs and ICT Learning Support</i>	<i>19th Mar 10</i>	<i>Mucklagh NS</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Whole School Training</i>	<i>23rd Mar 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>ICT and Maths</i>	<i>12th Apr – 30th May 10</i>	<i>Colaiste Phobal, Roscrea</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>125</i>
<i>ICT and Maths</i>	<i>14th Apr – 12th May 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>187.5</i>
<i>Using Website X 5 to Create a School Website</i>	<i>19th Apr – 17th May 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Special Needs and ICT Learning Support</i>	<i>1st -7th Jul 10</i>	<i>St Anne's Special School, Roscrea</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>220</i>
<i>Introduction to ICT in the Classroom</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>St Mary's NS, Walsh Island</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>Introduction to ICT in the Classroom</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Ballinamere NS</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>280</i>

<i>Introduction to ICT in the Classroom</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Eoin</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>340</i>
<i>Introduction to ICT in the Classroom</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Ballyfin NS</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>220</i>
<i>Digital Media for Learning</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Scoil Mhuire NS., Tullamore</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>320</i>
<i>Digital Media for Learning</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>Supporting and Developing ICT as a Teaching and Learning Resource</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Killenard NS, Portarlington</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>320</i>
<i>Supporting and Developing ICT as a Teaching and Learning Resource</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Clonlisk NS., Shinrone</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>300</i>
<i>Supporting and Developing ICT as a Teaching and Learning Resource</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Scoil Bhríde, Portlaoise</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>420</i>
<i>Internet and email in Teaching and Learning</i>	<i>1st – 7th Jul 10</i>	<i>Scoil Mhuire, Borrisokane</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>320</i>
<i>Introduction to ICT in the Classroom</i>	<i>23rd – 27th Aug 10</i>	<i>Rathdowney NS</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>240</i>
<i>Whole School Training</i>	<i>30th Aug 10</i>	<i>Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>66</i>
<i>ICT and Maths Workshop</i>	<i>29th Sept – 10th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>187.5</i>
<i>Podcasting</i>	<i>29th Sept 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>187.5</i>
<i>Whole School Training</i>	<i>14th Oct 10</i>	<i>Ballinamere NS</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Introduction to ICT in the Classroom</i>	<i>1st Nov 10</i>	<i>Derrylamogue NS</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Whole School Training</i>	<i>1st Nov 10</i>	<i>Killeigh NS</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>Digital Media for Learning</i>	<i>2nd Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Seminar for Post-Primary Principals on Planning for ICT</i>	<i>2nd Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>Smart Interactive Whiteboard</i>	<i>18th Nov 10</i>	<i>Laois Education Centre</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>44</i>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN THE CENTRE EXCLUDING LOCAL PROGRAMMES IN 2010

Group	Number of Participants	Contact Hours
<i>Further Education Service</i>	23	184
<i>Leadership Development Service</i>	1051	5780.5
<i>SPHE</i>	91	500.5
<i>SLSS</i>	346	1903
<i>CSPE</i>	14	105
<i>SCP Impact</i>	26	143
<i>Citizens Information</i>	17	76.5
<i>SESS</i>	269	1479.5
<i>Serco</i>	132	528
<i>PPDS</i>	37	259
<i>SDPI</i>	12	138
<i>Home School Liaison</i>	40	120
<i>NEPS</i>	93	93
<i>MABS</i>	24	48
<i>Education Centre / Directors</i>	42	126
<i>LCVP</i>	78	390
<i>Failte Ireland</i>	13	26
<i>Health Promotion Unit</i>	32	192
<i>Inspectors</i>	11	55
<i>Principals and Deputy Principals Forum</i>	25	50
<i>Kildare VEC</i>	4	8
<i>Retired Teachers</i>	40	60
<i>I-Note</i>	24	48

<i>Orchid Education Services</i>	112	224
<i>NCSE</i>	12	60
<i>NCCA</i>	17	93.5
<i>Portlaoise Athletics Club</i>	56	56
<i>Handwriting Competition</i>	40	40
<i>Student Council</i>	6	15
<i>JCSP</i>	15	82.5
<i>CDU</i>	11	44
<i>Laois Sports Partnership</i>	20	100
<i>ATECI</i>	34	72
<i>Discover Sensors</i>	5	15
<i>LCA</i>	32	128
<i>PDST</i>	51	280.5
<i>Laois Third Level</i>	29	159.5
<i>Manual Handling</i>	3	6
<i>Gaeilge Support Service</i>	100	550
<i>Hibernia College</i>	133	798
<i>Wexford Education Centre</i>	25	50
<i>Strategy Group / NCCLB</i>	9	27
<i>SR Safety and Environmental Services</i>	5	27.5
<i>Induction Programme</i>	25	100
<i>NBSS</i>	16	80
<i>Laois County Council</i>	20	120

**LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE SUPPORTING
NATIONAL PROGRAMMES DURING 2010**

T4 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

T4 Professional Development programme for teachers of Design and Communication Graphic with the Computer Aided Design CAD began in 2007, forming a significant component which can only be delivered during school time. All 2nd level schools in our area have been invited to attend. This programme is administrated in partnership with Galway Education Centre.

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Total	Contact
T4 Professional Development	28 th Jan 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	18	0	18	99
T4 Professional Development	9 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	13	2	15	82.5
T4 Professional Development	8 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	15	0	15	82.5
T4 Professional Development	14 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	9	2	11	60.5

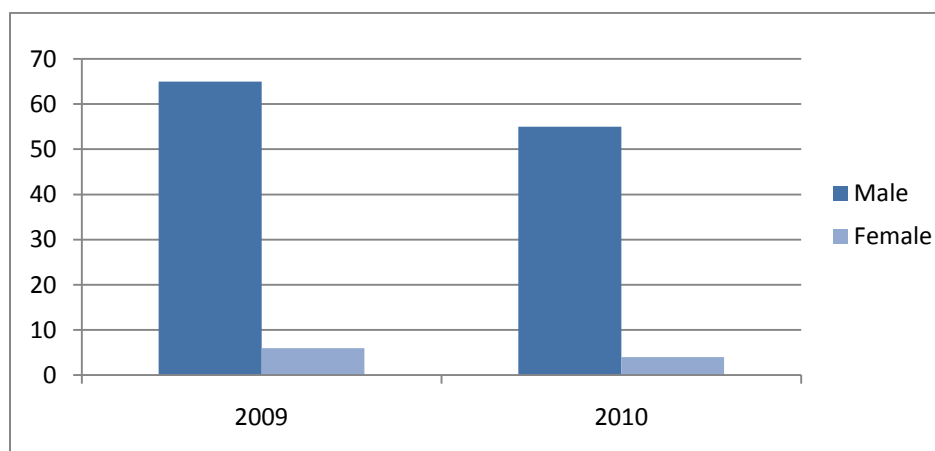


Figure 2 represents attendance levels at T4 Professional Development

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE

▶ **Meeting the Needs of a Pupil with a Visual Impairment in the Mainstream Setting: for Mainstream Class /Subject Teachers and Resource /Learning Support Teachers**

This one day seminar took place in Laois Education Centre and was facilitated by Gwyneth Mc Cormack, Director, Positive Eye: Visual Impairment Training and Consultancy, UK.

▶ **Challenging Behaviour and Pupils with Special Educational Needs**

The Special Education Support Service (SESS), under the auspices of Teacher Education Section, Department of Education and Science, provided a one day continuing professional development course for resource teachers working with pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in a primary schools on the 23rd March.

▶ **Transition from Primary to Post-Primary for Pupils with Special Educational Needs: Challenges for the Pupil and Strategies for the Teacher**

The Special Education Support Service provided a 2-hour seminar on transition from Primary to Post-Primary for Pupils with Special Educational Needs: Challenges for Pupils and Strategies for the Teacher. The seminar was facilitated by Tony McHugh.

▶ **Learning and Teaching for Students with Special Educational Needs: Continuing Professional Development for Resource/Learning Support Teachers**

The Special Education Support Service (SESS), under the auspices of Teacher Education Section, Department of Education and Science, provided a one day continuing professional development course for resource teachers working with students with special educational needs in primary schools. This course was open to full-time Resource/Learning Support teachers

Contents of the day included;

- Curriculum Differentiation for Pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Co-operative Teaching
- An Introduction to Dyspraxia/Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD)
- Assessment
- Dyslexia: Planning and Intervention
- Down Syndrome

SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
Meeting the Needs of Pupils with a Visual Impairment In Mainstream	3 rd Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	26	4	0	0	30	165
Challenging Behaviour and Pupils with Special Educational Needs	23 rd Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	18	3	0	0	21	115.5
Transition from Primary to Post-Primary	24 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	16	3	19	38
Learning and Teaching for Students with SEN	29 th Apr 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	27	2	29	159.5

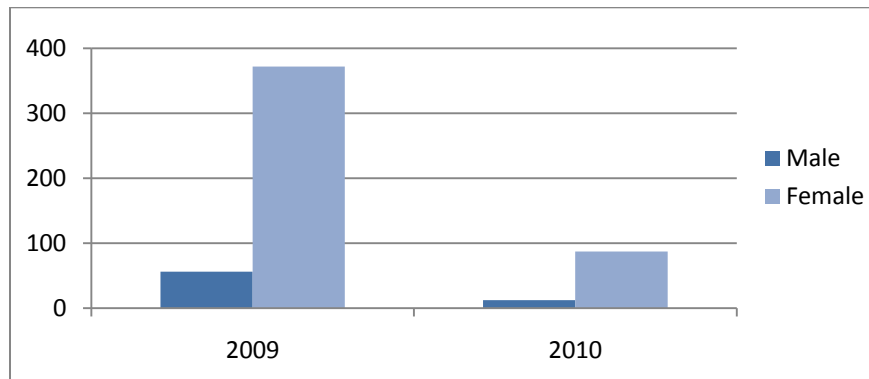


Figure 3 represents attendance at Special Education Support Service administered by Laois Education Centre

PROJECT MATHS

► Day Courses

The national rollout of the Programme of Professional Development for all Post-Primary teachers of mathematics commenced in early October 2009. This programme is administered from Drumcondra Education Centre. Project Maths was administered Fiona Lennon.

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
Project Maths	22 nd Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	8	2	10	55.5
Project Maths	3 rd Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	5	3	8	44
Project Maths	4 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	7	6	13	71.5
Project Maths	10 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	12	3	15	82.5
Project Maths	16 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	9	10	19	104.5
Project Maths	18 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	12	6	18	99
Project Maths	19 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	14	9	23	126.5
Project Maths	23 rd Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	15	5	20	275
Project Maths	24 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	13	6	19	104.5
Project Maths	25 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	11	6	17	93.5
Project Maths	25 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	10	7	17	93.5
Project Maths	29 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	10	3	13	71.5
Project Maths	30 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	6	2	8	44

Project Maths	6 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	8	2	10	55
Project Maths	9 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	7	4	11	60.5
Project Maths	13 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	14	6	20	110
Project Maths	14 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	20	9	29	159.5
Project Maths	16 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	17	7	24	132

► Evening Courses

The Project Maths Development Team, in collaboration with the National Centre of Excellence in Maths and Science Teaching and Learning in the University of Limerick, offered a course on Strand 1: Probability & Statistics. The workshops focused on new elements of the course, methodology and the use of information technology and covered topics from Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. The course was offered to;

- Teachers of Junior and Senior Cycle mathematics (all levels)
- 5 modules of 2.5 hours each
- Using DVD and resources based on NCE-MSTL summer course
- Delivered by experienced maths teachers
- Attendance was be certified

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
Project Maths Probability & Statistics	20 th , 27 th Apr, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th May 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	23	2	25	312.5
Project Maths Probability & Statistics	29 th Sept, 6 th , 13 th , 20 th Oct & 3 rd Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	5	5	10	125

► **Summer Course**

Summer Course for Second Level Teachers of Mathematics on Content Knowledge for Strand 1: Statistics & Probability took place in June with a view to providing additional support to teachers of Mathematics at a local level, and to addressing the huge demand for the current programme of evening courses. A Summer Course was held on June 10th & 11th. This course covered all 5 modules over a 2 day period (6 hrs per day). This course was facilitated by Meagan McLoughlin.

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
Project Maths	10 th & 11 th Jun 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	5	1	6	108

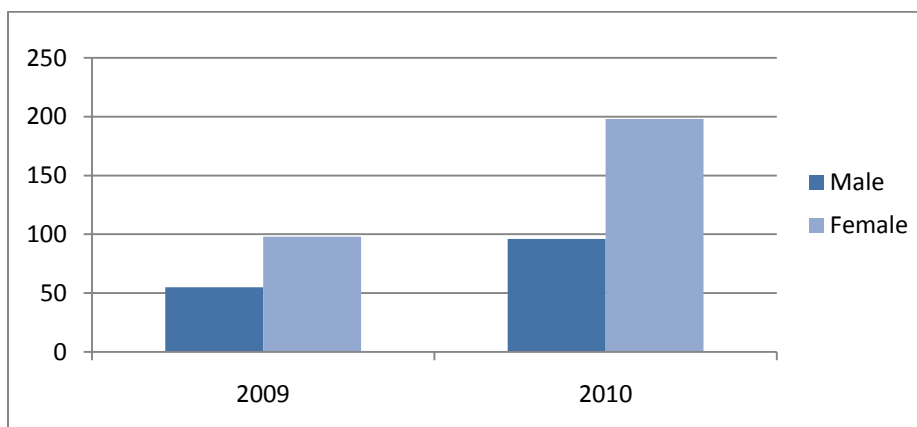


Figure 4 represents attendance at Project Maths Day Seminars

I-Note

► **Creative Writing from 1st to 6th Year – 25th March '10**

Edward Dennison is an experienced writer and teacher working in Newtown Secondary School, Waterford. He discussed methodologies for stimulating creative writing across second level classes, looking at writing story, poetry, dialogue, etc.

► **Review of Leaving Certificate High Level English 2009 – 24th April '10**

Frances Rocks is an experienced English teacher from Dundalk, who has published several senior level textbooks. In the seminar she examined 'A' sampler of students work from last years exam, with an emphasis on this years (2010) coursework. This was very beneficial for current Leaving Cert teachers.

► **Hamlet in the Classroom – 30th September ‘10**

Laois INOTE have been very lucky to have secured the expertise of Richie Ball to address local English teachers the topic on Hamlet. Richie has lots of ideas and methodologies for teaching Hamlet in the classroom. Now retired from St. Pats in Navan, he has more time to share his vast experience on his favourite topic of drama in the classroom.

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
Creative Writing	25 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	0	12	12	18
Review of Leaving Certificate H.L.	24 th Apr 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	16	3	19	36
Hamlet in the Classroom	30 th Sept 10	Laois Education Centre	0	0	11	0	11	22

CESI Annual Conference 2010

Laois Education Centre were very happy to co-operate with the CESI Executive Committee and in particular John Hegarty in the rollout of its Annual Conference on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th February 2010. Our role for the 2010 Conference was to assist with the administration, registration and catering on the day.

The main event took place in Portlaoise College, where approximately 230 participants attended the keynote address, presentations, workshops and exhibitions. We would like to thank the Principal, Colette Dunning and Staff of Portlaoise College for their help and co-operation with this major event. Feedback was extremely positive and plans are already in place to for next year’s Conference.

Relationships and Sexuality Programme

The RSE Support Service offered two afternoons of RSE training for teachers of Fourth to Sixth class on the 3rd & 10th March and on the 7th & 14th November. Schools were invited to nominate one or two teachers to attend the training. It was necessary for the same teacher/s to attend on both days. Due to insufficient numbers it did not run in March. Those who did apply for the March training were given the option to attend training in Kilkenny Education Centre. Training did take place on the 7th November. Our tutor was Miriam Geaney. All returns were made to Drumcondra Education Centre.

Training included:

- An overview of RSE as an aspect of SPHE
- The role and function of an RSE policy

- Methodologies for teaching RSE from 4th to 6th Class
- Creating a safe classroom environment

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
RSE Workshop	7 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	6	1	0	0	7	21

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR TEACHERS – PDST

The PDST is a cross-sectoral multi-disciplinary support service, and it subsumes and develops the support provided by a number of former organisations, including Primary Professional Development Service (PPDS), Second Level Support Service (SLSS), School Development Planning Initiative (SDPI) and Leadership Development for Schools (LDS). The PDST will operate on a regional basis, providing teacher professional development and school support through multi-disciplinary teams of seconded teachers, who will work in close co-operation with the Education Centre Network, to respond to professional development needs identified by schools. This new support service commenced in September. Laois Education Centre is the main administration office for Region 5, covering Laois, Athlone, Clare & Galway. Seán Gallagher is our Regional Co-ordinator. The National Director is Paddy Keays and Administrator is Áine Duffy and the head office is located in Dublin West Education Centre, 14 Joyce Way, Park West Business Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 12.

The following outlines the range of support available to schools and teachers at primary level this school year.

► Primary

- DEIS: all urban band 1 and band 2 schools will continue to receive targeted support in literacy and numeracy, including First Steps, Reading Recovery, Maths Recovery, Ready, Set, Go Maths and DEIS planning. PDST advisors will be in contact with schools in due course.
- Leadership and planning: A comprehensive range of support for school leaders and planning activities continues under PDST. Already many leaders are embarking on the Tóraíocht Programme for aspiring leaders, the Misneach Programme for newly appointed principals and the Forbairt Programme for established principals and deputy principals.
- Child Protection Seminars: We envisage offering a round of training for newly appointed DLPs and Deputy DLPs, to commence early in 2011.

- Stay Safe: Schools that have not already availed of training in the Stay Safe programme will be offered targeted training by the Child Abuse Prevention Programme (CAPP). In addition, an application form inviting other schools to apply for further professional development for staff and information sessions for parents / BOM has arrived in all schools.
- Web-based support: A substantial range of resources will continue to be available on the primary website. These have been added to over the summer months, and will continue to be updated and refined. These may be accessed via www.ppds.ie or www.pdst.ie
- Regional CPD activities for schools and teachers: Regional Co-ordinator will be in contact with schools and will inform you of the specific CPD opportunities which will be on offer in your region, in collaboration with your local Education Centres.

The following outlines the range of support available to schools and teachers at Post-Primary level this school year:

► **Post-primary**

- DEIS: Support continues for the JCSP Programme, the JCSP Literacy and Numeracy Strategy as well as for the JCSP Demonstration Library Project. Schools will continue to receive support for the implementation of their DEIS plan and in particular for the implementation of the JCSP programme and their literacy and numeracy plan.
- Leadership and planning: A comprehensive range of support for school leaders and planning activities continues under PDST. Already many school leaders are embarking on the Toraíocht Programme for aspiring leaders, the Misneach Programme for newly appointed principals and the Forbairt Programme for established principals and deputy principals.
- Cultural and Environmental: A range of continuing professional development opportunities is being offered to teachers of Art, Classics (Ancient Greek, Latin and Classical Studies), CSPE, ESS, Geography, History, Music and Religious Education (Examination subject) during the First Term. All of these courses focus on Teaching and Learning looking at course content, classroom strategies, appropriate methodologies and aspects of assessment.
- Languages: A range of supports and services is available for teachers of English and Modern Languages.
- Transition Year Support for schools and teachers is available for the introduction of Transition Year and the ongoing development of Transition Year Programme in schools in addition to in-service events.
- Leaving Cert Applied (LCA): Induction workshops for new teachers in most LCA subjects are currently taking place. Regional evening meetings on Tasks including Practical Achievement, General Education, Vocational Specialism and Personal Reflection will be available in early October. Details will be forwarded to LCA Coordinators. Other support initiatives will be organised in response to needs identified by LCA Coordinators.
- Business and Enterprise LCVP: A range of supports are available for the Business suite of subjects with emphasis on Accounting and Economics this term. LCVP support is available, with a range of courses, phone and email support, in particular for new LCVP schools and new teachers. We will have a new online LCVP Assessment course available shortly.

- Science and Mathematics: PDST is pleased to continue support for teachers of applied maths, the sciences and home economics.
- Web-based support: A substantial range of resources are available, and will continue to be updated and refined – see www.slss.ie and www.pdst.ie
- Regional CPD activities for schools and teachers: Your Regional Co-ordinator will shortly be in contact and will inform you of the specific CPD opportunities which will be on offer in your region, in collaboration with your local Education Centres.

Procedure in dealing with queries and requests for support:

- Take a note of the date, school, Principal and the type of support requested
- We will do our utmost to respond if the request falls within the remit of PDST
- Indicate to the caller/Principal that you will pass on the request and information to the relevant RCO/NCO for consideration and further action.

All queries are forwarded to Seán Gallagher on a weekly basis

Breakdown of Regional Bases

Region	Administration Centre
Region 1 - Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, Meath and North Dublin RCO Mary Manley	Drumcondra Education Centre
Region 2 - South Dublin, Kildare, North Wicklow RCO Ciara O'Donnell	Dublin West Education Centre
Region3 - Wexford, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny, South Wicklow and South East Tipperary RCO TJ Ó Ceallaigh	Co Wexford Education Centre
Region 4 - Cork, Kerry, Limerick and North West Tipperary RCO Mary Mc Auliffe	The Education Centre Tralee
Region 5 - Clare, Galway, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, South Roscommon and North East Tipperary RCO Seán Gallagher	Laois Education Centre
Region 6 - Mayo, Sligo, North Roscommon, Leitrim, Donegal and Longford RCO Mary O' Flaherty	Mayo Education Centre

Programmes

Leadership and Planning support NCO Paddy Flood	Clare Education Centre
Leaving Certificate Applied Support NCO Sheila O' Driscoll	Clare Education Centre
Transition Year Support NCO Michael O' Leary	Blackrock Education Centre
Junior Certificate Schools Programme NCO Aideen Cassidy	City of Dublin VEC, CDU

Post Primary Subject Pillars

Cultural and Environmental Education NCO Conor Harrison	Ancient Greek, Art, CSPE, Classical Studies, ESS, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Religious Education	Co. Wexford Education Centre
Business and Enterprise NCO Caroline Mc Hale	Business Studies, Accounting, Business, Economics, LCVP and Enterprise	Navan Education Centre
Modern Languages NCO Kevin Mc Dermott	English and Modern Languages	Navan Education Centre
Science and Maths NCO Tim Regan	Junior Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Ag Science, Home Economics, Maths, Applied Mathematics	Limerick and Co. Wexford Education Centre

Programmes

Maths Recovery	Clare Education Centre: NCO Noreen O'Loughlin
Reading Recovery	Cork Education Centre Monaghan Education Centre: NCO Sr. Elizabeth Connolly Limerick Education Centre Galway Education Centre Dublin West Education Centre Kilkenny Education Centre Marino Institute of Education
CAPP / Stay Safe	Cherry Orchard Hospital: NCO Patricia Shanahan

► Clustered Planning Days

The Department of Education and Skills confirmed that schools may, with Board of Management approval, close for one day during the 2010-2011 school year for planning purposes. If schools had not scheduled their planning day and wish to work collaboratively with similar size schools in their local education centre, PDST advisors facilitated the following planning days in the Education Centres. Schools could opt to participate in either of the two days. The topics offered were;

- Writing
- Problem solving in Mathematics

► Shared Planning Day on Problem Solving

The Planning Day on Problem Solving explored the skills of problem solving, different types of problems and strategies to teach problem solving at all class levels. Planning time was provided for participants to discuss and devise an action plan for problem solving for their school. Our facilitators for the day were Mags Nohilly & Íde Ruaidh.

► Shared Planning Day on Writing

This Planning Day on Writing will incorporate a guided approach to teaching writing genres at all class levels. We will also address the teaching of grammar, assessment of writing and the use of ICT as a teaching tool for writing. Planning time will be provided for you and your staff to discuss and devise an action plan for Writing for your school.

Title	Date	Venue	Primary Female	Primary Male	Post-Primary Female	Post - Primary Male	Total	Contact
Planning Day on Problem Solving	30 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	12	0	0	0	12	66
Shared Planning Day on Writing	17 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	9	0	0	0	9	49.5

The PDST advisors appointed to Region 5 are as follows:

- Fiona Dunne
- Dympna O'Byrne
- Vincent Mulvey
- Íde Ruaidh
- Ita Seoighe
- Jenny Dooley-Ryan
- Mags Nohilly
- Sheila McManam

SCHOOL CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION 2010

Laois Education Centre were very happy once again to support the School Chaplain in 2010. Our main functions in supporting the School Chaplains Association include:

- Liaising with the Executive Committee on Memberships, Conferences and Projects
- Management of their allocation from the Department of Education and Science
- Administration of various projects and their annual conference
- Correspondence with members

Currently 189 members are registered with the Association.

The School Chaplains Annual Conference was held in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise from Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th November 2010. The theme of the Conference was 'Walk humbly with your God'.

Workshops included:

- Dealing with cultural diversity in Irish classrooms today
- 'Closer still.... A 21st Century perspective on Christian Spirituality'
- An exploration of God's plan
- Understanding the needs of teenagers / young people in parental separation
- Happiness is an inside job

The incoming committee are:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ● Áine Moran | Chairperson |
| ● Mark Donnelly | Vice-Chairperson |
| ● Lucinda Dillon | Treasurer |
| ● Niamh Donohue | Secretary |
| ● Patrick Doyle | PRO |
| ● Olive Delahunty | Membership and Newsletter |
| ● Sr Mercedes Coen | Diary and Newsletter |
| ● Eoghan Keogh | Website |
| ● Louise Mulligan | Regional Co-ordinator |

<i>Course</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	<i>Contact Hours</i>
<i>School Chaplains Conference</i>	<i>24th – 26th Nov 10</i>	<i>Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>1890</i>

LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE LOCAL COURSES DESIGNED AND DELIVERED IN 2010

► Behaviour Clinic

This extremely practical event provided Post-Primary teachers, principals and support staff with advice, resources and strategies for understanding and responding to the challenges of student behaviour, building resilience and promoting positive behaviour and learning in schools and classrooms. The Behaviour Clinic combined a presentation seminar followed by the opportunity for participants to discuss real-life experiences and receive practical solutions to such situations as below:

- Introduction to behaviour
- What are we talking about
- Who are we talking about
- Pathways and origin of challenging behaviour
- Resilience and guiding principles
- Key skills in working with these students
- Common errors
- Theoretical models of behaviour
- Open session questions and answers

Facilitators: Dr. Moya O’Brien & Dr. Deirdre MacIntyre (Clinical Psychologists and founding members of ICEP (Institute of Child Education & Psychology))

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
3 rd Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00 – 9.00pm	15	3	0	0	18	36

► From Marking Scheme 2009 to Everyday Classroom Practice” - French Leaving Certificate Higher Level Written Paper

This workshop covered:

- Introduction to the Marking Scheme for Leaving Certificate French Higher Level 2009
- Practical recommendations for teachers and students arising from the marking
- Some practical application of the Marking Scheme to exemplars of Production Ecrite

Facilitator: Joe Dennehy, Chief Advising Examiner, Leaving Certificate French Higher Level Written Paper

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
4 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30 – 9.30pm	23	0	0	0	23	46

► **Making Visible the Judgments We Use in Assessing Students' Short Stories**

This workshop for English Teachers of Leaving Certificate English looked at how to:

- Provide a workshop for teachers of English using real examples of students' writing
- Explore the different perspectives involved in assessing a piece of work - the reader's perspective, the teacher's perspective and the examiner's perspective
- Encourage teachers to consider how best to support the writer-in-waiting
- Create a community of shared practice, shared values and shared meanings

Facilitator: Dr Kevin McDermott, SLSS

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
9 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	4.00 – 6.30pm	13	2	0	0	15	37.5

► **Phonics Workshop 'Sounds in Action'**

This workshop by the Author of 'Sounds in Action' Primary School Phonics book covered:

- Work through Junior Infants' workbook
- Work through Senior Infants & combine with 'Look & Say'
- Use of sandpaper letters
- How to use a moveable alphabet
- Simple equipment and ideas for the classroom
- A structured approach to the teaching of phonics - how to move forward from cvcs
- Producing good spellers and proficient readers
- Finishing the programme Involving parents

Facilitator: Veronica Whelan 'Sounds in Action' Author

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
10 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00 – 9.30pm	0	0	18	2	20	50

► **Strategies to Prepare Students for German Oral Examination**

This workshop aimed to give advice to teachers on strategies on how best to prepare students for the German oral examination and pitfalls to avoid. It also closely examined the marking scheme and showed how the oral is marked.

Facilitator: Ann Foley, Advising Examiner for German Orals Examination

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
11 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00 – 9.0pm	11	1	0	0	12	24

► **Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt!**

Bliain nua....

Ar mhaith leat feabhas a chuir ar do chuid Gaeilge labhartha? Ar mhaith leat seans a fháil le do Ghaeilge a chleachtadh, gan brú, gan stró ach le fonn?

Sna ceardlainn seo cuirfimid béim ar an éisteacht, an labhairt agus ar an gcumarsáid. Bainfimid taitneamh as úsáid na teanga. Déanfaimid é sin trí bheith ag plé leis an gcultúr maraon leis an dteanga.

Láithreoir: *Íde Ruaidh Comhairleoir Gaeilge/Tús Maith*

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
22 nd Feb, 1 st , 8 th & 15 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	4.15 – 6.15pm	2	1	7	0	10	100

► **Attention & Concentration Problems in Childhood**

This seminar was open to all Primary and Post-Primary teachers and looked at causes, considerations and classroom strategies to deal with attention and concentration problems in the classroom.

Facilitator: Dr. Colette Halpin & Team, Dept. of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Portlaoise General Hospital

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	4.30 – 6.30pm	4	1	24	0	29	58

► **An Cúrsa Nua Próis agus Filíochta don Ardteist (faoi scrúdú in 2012) – Léargas ar Gach Gné den Chúrsa”**

Facilitator: Micheál Ó Ruairc

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
24 Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00 – 9.00pm	46	4	0	0	50	125

► **Improving Your Childs Self-Esteem**

This workshop was open to parents of both Primary and Post-Primary pupils and covered the following:

- Overview of Self-Esteem
- Building blocks of Self-Esteem
- Importance of Self-Esteem
- How is Self-Esteem determined
- The tools of Self-Esteem
- Parents’ role in improving Self Esteem

Facilitator: Moya O Brien, (Clinical Psychologists and founding member of ICEP (Institute of Child Education & Psychology))

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
25 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00 – 9.00pm	0	0	34	2	36	72

► **Tóraíocht - A Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership**

Laois Education Centre in partnership with LDS and NUI Maynooth invited applications from Primary and Post-Primary teachers with an interest in future senior leadership and management positions to participate in the Tóraíocht programme. Information on this programme which outlined its aims, guiding principles, structure and application process were available from the Centre.

Facilitators: Margaret McMahon (LDS) and Paula Kinnarney - NUI Maynooth

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st Mar 10	Racket Hall Hotel, Roscrea	7.00-9.00pm	4	0	8	4	16	32

► **Supporting Your Teenager Through Secondary School**

This two-evening workshop covered the following:

- **Responsible Parenting/Higher Achievement** focused on the importance of home/parental involvement in affecting student achievement in school and suggested possible strategies to help parents
- **Homework Battles** looked specifically at homework battles between parent/teenager and how they might be resolved

Facilitator: Tom Moore, LDS Team Member

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
2 nd & 9 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00-9.00pm	21	1	0	0	22	88

► **Stories to Help Teach Primary Science**

This presentation suggested an easy, teacher-friendly and practical approach to the teaching of science. It focused mainly on Junior Classes and the teaching of the 'Forces and Energy' Strand of the Curriculum and was suitable for all primary teachers interested in teaching science effectively. The approach centred on the use of storytelling to encourage discussion and direct practical activities and experiments. Original material i.e. stories, worksheets etc. was provided as well as book list of stories considered suitable.

Facilitator: Carmel Mackey, Primary Teacher, M. Sc.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
10 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30-9.30pm	0	0	10	0	10	20

► **Methods & Strategies in Approach to German Leaving Certificate Written Paper**

This seminar focused on the written paper and dealt with strategies in approaching each section and recommendations to both teachers and students to improve performance. It also dealt with specific issues related to each session e.g. preparation, grammar, effective use of language and vocabulary, errors and exercises.

Facilitator: Tricia Boyle, Advising Examiner for German Written Examination

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
10 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30-9.30pm	15	1	0	0	16	32

► **On A Board of Management and Uncertain About it?**

This three-evening course was designed to address the purely practical aspects of being a member of a board. The desired outcome was to enable members to participate satisfactorily in the work of the board, contribute to the progress of the school and avoid pitfalls caused by a combination of over-enthusiasm and lack of knowledge. Therefore there was as much emphasis on what the board (and the individual member) should not/can not attempt to do as on what must or ought to be done. A set of FAQs was addressed and handouts provided for future reference. The course proceeded from considering the nature of a board to the roles of the individual members to describing the relationships between the board and the other persons or groups (of which there are several) with whom the board must interact. While the focus of the course was at all times on the practical aspects of board membership, it was impossible to avoid dealing with a certain amount of law as it relates to schools and boards, but this was kept to a minimum and presented as clearly as is consistent with accuracy.

Facilitator: Oliver Mahon, Barrister at Law

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd Feb, 2 nd & 9 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30-10.0pm	3	0	6	10	19	171

► **SafeTALK - Suicide Alertness**

In association with the HSE Midlands Suicide Resource Service, this seminar aimed to prepare parents to be a suicide helper as most people with thoughts of suicide invite help. SafeTALK training aimed to prepare parents to help by using TALK (Tell, Ask, Listen and Keep Safe) to identify and engage people with thoughts of suicide and to connect them with further help and care.

Facilitator: Josephine Rigney, Training & Development Officer, HSE Midlands Suicide Resource Service

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
3 rd Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	6.00-9.30pm	19	3	0	0	22	77

► **Art for Easter With a Difference**

This course showed teachers how to blow out eggs, dye them and make them into a stunning Easter tree. Using natural materials, teachers were also showed how to put together Easter baskets. Easy and accessible Easter crafts were also shared.

Facilitator: Finola Darcy, Primary Teacher with experience in teaching in Ireland & abroad

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
8 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	4.00-6.00pm	0	0	20	0	20	50

► **Conflict Management Skills & Strategies**

This workshop explored whole school and classroom skills and strategies required by pupils and teachers to manage conflict effectively. It also focused on lessons in the Walk Tall Programme to develop conflict management skills.

Facilitator: Mary Johnston, Walk Tall Support Service

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
24 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	3.30-5.30pm	0	0	10	0	10	20

► **Guitar in the Primary Classroom**

This four-evening course was designed to encourage teachers to use the guitar in their classroom. Participants were encouraged to learn new chords and new strumming and fingerstyle accompaniment. The course also looked at song singing, listening and responding to music and how to record pupil performances. The course was presented in a relaxed style and was more suited to improving guitarists rather than beginner/advanced players.

Facilitator: Aidan Barry, Primary Teacher

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
12 th , 19 th & 26 th Apr & 4 th May	Laois Education Centre	7.00-9.00pm	0	0	11	0	11	88

► **National Gallery of Ireland Workshop**

Highlights of the National Gallery’s Collection talk for Primary & Post-Primary teachers focused on some of the public’s favourite works in both the Irish & European collections including works by Vermeer, Caravaggio, le Brocqy & Yeats. It acted as a good introduction to the history of art as well as the National Collection.

Facilitator: Briana Casey, National Gallery Lecturer

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
21 th Apr 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00-8.00pm	7	3	14	0	24	24

► **A Positive Working Environment for Teachers & SNAs Working Together to Create a Positive, Progressive & Harmonious School Environment**

This course was open to teachers and/or SNAs and other ancillary staff members working in school classrooms. It represented best practice and outlined procedures and guidelines on how to create a healthy and positive working environment.

Facilitator: Marion Flanagan, Grad/Dip. Anti-Bullying

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
14 th & 21 st April 10	Day’s Hotel, Tullamore	7.00-9.00pm	5	0	45	0	50	200

► **Preparatory Certificate in English Language Teaching**

This 32-hour certificate in English Language Teaching for State Qualified Teachers was a Department of Education & Science recognised certificate in English Language Teaching which provided the necessary knowledge and skills to participants to teach English as a foreign language. Fee for course was €395.

Facilitator: Maria Mahon, More Than Words

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
22 nd & 29 th May, 4 th & 5 th June 10	Laois Education Centre	9.00–5.00pm	1	2	0	0	3	96

► **Arts and Crafts in the Primary Classroom : Summer Course**

The aim of this course was to enable participants to understand the creative process children go through in making art and to develop a positive response to creating art using imagination. During the course participants drew on their experiences and imagination with their own natural observation and curiosity to develop thematic outcomes and develop organisational procedures for working with pupils in a practical classroom.

Facilitator: Redmond Burke

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th Jul 10	St Francis School, Portlaoise	9.30- 2.00pm	0	0	2	21	23	460

► **Music Made Easy: Summer Course**

This practical workshop covered the three strands of Music:

- Listening and Responding
- Performing
- Composing

Other topics included:

- The Music Curriculum with the Tin Whistle
- Music Reading and Writing; Song and Singing
- Classroom Instruments
- Salsa Drumming;
- Music Programme using ICT
- Using the Internet to resource materials and aids.

Facilitator: Paula Grant

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th Jul 10	Scoil Mhuire, Portlaoise	9.30- 2.00pm	0	0	1	19	20	400

► **The Role of Gaelic Games in the Curriculum: A Beginner’s Approach: Summer Course**

This course focused on aiding teachers in coaching the fundamental skills of Gaelic Games in primary schools to mixed ability class groups. A background in Gaelic Games coaching was not necessary—interest and enthusiasm were the only requirements.

Programme Content:

- Planning, designing and implementing a coaching programme
- Hurling, Camogie and Mens / Ladies Football skills workshop
- Dealing with children with special needs in a PE situation
- Early Childhood PE Programme—Nursery and Fundamental Skills
- Maximising use of Ceim ar Aghaidh and FUN DO resources
- Introduction to coaching Handball
- School Yard Games and GO GAMES—maximising available space

This course was delivered by GAA facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th Jul 10	Portlaoise GAA Club	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	1	14	15	300

► **Developing the emotionally intelligent pupil as a strategy for the prevention of substance misuse—using the Walk Tall Programme: Summer Course**

Topics included:

- Emotional intelligence, Strategies for developing Emotional Intelligence, Self Esteem, Feelings and Emotions, Conflict Management
- Communication, Decision Making, Influences
- Active learning to promote Emotional Intelligence: Circle Time, Role Play, Cooperative Games
- Alcohol and Drugs Information Awareness
- Alcohol and Drug Education for primary pupils
- Management of Alcohol and Drug related incidents in primary school
- Parents supporting the school in developing Emotionally Intelligent Children

Facilitator: Grainne Flanagan, Walk Tall Team

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th Jul 10	Laois Education Centre	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	1	14	15	300

► **Special Education in Mainstream Primary: Summer Course**

This summer course was organised by the Special Education Support Service with Laois Education Centre as a venue

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th Jul 10	Laois Education Centre	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	0	33	33	660

► **Arts and Crafts in Primary School: Summer Course**

The aim of this course was to enable participants to:

- Tap into the creativity of the pupils in all strands of visual arts
- Explore & experiment with a range of tools and materials when making art
- Explore and experiment with variety of paints and other materials on different surfaces
- Explore and discover the possibilities of clay as a medium
- Printing using a number of techniques
- Explore and discover the possibilities of fabric and fibre as a media for expression

Facilitator: Marian Whyte

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
5 th – 9 th Jul 10	Scoil Mhuire Tullamore	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	1	17	18	360

► **Exploring our Environment and Culture: Summer Course**

This course focused on the curricular area of SESE, in particular the area of history. It also provided opportunities for teachers to integrate history with other subjects such as Visual Arts, English and Dance. Participants had the opportunity to:

- Further their knowledge of the History Curriculum
- Examine and become familiar with local historical monuments
- Explore and take part in Sean-nós Dancing
- Participate in field trips include: Rock of Dunamaise, Emo Court, Slieve Blooms and Mountmellick Museum

Facilitators: Niamh Campion and Mary McCarthy

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
5 th – 9 th Jul 10	Laois Education Centre	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	1	16	17	340

► **The Outdoor Classroom: Summer Course**

This summer course was delivered through a series of lectures, practical workshops, discussion and a field trip. The aim of this course was to enable participants to:

- Develop and use exploration trails on the school grounds and vicinity
- Construct, maintain and utilise a garden in order to teach about the environment, sustainability and conservation in a practical way
- Identify plants and devise practical methods of learning about them
- Identify invertebrates of land and water and devise ways of learning about them using active learning
- To employ a sustainable approach in the day-to-day organisation of the school and to increase biodiversity on the school grounds.

Facilitator: Paddy Madden

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
8 th – 14 th Jul 10	Laois Education Centre	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	2	12	14	280

► **Promoting Positive Behaviour in School: Summer Course**

SPHE Modules included

- Enhancing Self-Esteem in Pupils and Teachers
- Meta-cognition, Multiple Intelligences
- Bullying of pupils and formulating policies
- Positive staff relations
- Conflict resolution
- Effective communication
- Managing stress and change
- How pupils and staff can contribute to a harmonious working environment, best practice

Facilitator: Marion Flanagan

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd – 27 th Aug 10	Day's Hotel Tullamore	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	3	13	16	320

► **Occupational First Aid: Summer Course**

Certification (FETAC level 5) was awarded to all trainees who attended this full 20 hour course and reached the required standard set for this course.

Course content will include:

- First aid in the Workplace
- Patient Assessment
- Respiratory Emergences
- Wounds and Bleeding
- Cardiac First Response (CPR & AED)
- Altered levels of Consciousness
- Musculoskeletal Injuries, Burns
- Chemicals and Electrical Injuries.

Facilitator: Tom Walsh

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd – 27 th Aug 10	Laois Education Centre	9.30-2.00pm	0	0	3	6	9	180

► **Primary Science Workshops**

This three-week workshop was aimed at teachers who wanted to improve their practical knowledge of the Science Curriculum. The workshop enabled teachers to work as scientists, using all important skills, such as the ability to observe, question, predict, investigate, measure and analyse. This hands-on workshop covered many experiments, based on the following strands - Living Things, Energy and Forces and Materials.

Facilitator: Elaine Boland, Trained Science Facilitator

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
5 th , 12 th & 19 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.30pm	0	0	10	0	10	75

► **Bullying/Cyber-Bullying—Intervention and Prevention**

This course for teachers and SNAs aimed to raise awareness on the scourge of bullying in schools and covered:

- Classroom ideas & resources for bullying awareness.
- Methods of reporting and ideas for intervention and prevention.
- Relevant handouts were supplied.

Facilitator: Marion Flanagan, Grad/Dip. Anti-Bullying

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
13 th Oct 10	Central Hotel, Tullamore	7.00–9.00pm	0	0	11	1	12	24

► **Manual Handling Operatives Course**

This certified course for teachers and SNAs covered the following areas:

- Irish & EU Legislation including HSA Guidelines
- Structure of the Back & Manual Handling Injuries including function of the Spine & the Skeleton
- The eight principles of Movement & Handling
- Demonstration of correct lifting - participants must complete same in order to receive certification.
- Written theory exam completed the course

Participants paid a fee of €10 to cover certification of participation which is valid for 3 years

Facilitator: Claire Crawford, NISO Qualified Manual Handling Instructor and Assessor

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
13 th Oct 10	Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix	12.00–3.00pm	0	0	14	0	14	42
19 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	6.30-9.30pm	0	1	14	1	16	48

► **New Maths Web-Based Resources**

Laois Education Centre in association with local teachers has developed a range of web-based resources to support the implementation of Project Maths and to enhance students experience of ICT in the classroom. This course presented the opportunity to review these resources and discuss how they can be implemented in the classroom.

Facilitator: Seamus Knox, Department of the Inspectorate

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
19 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.00pm	16	9	0	0	25	50

► **“Feeling Low? Let Some Know” Suicide Resource Workshop**

This workshop was suitable for all Post-Primary Teachers, especially Transition Year and SPHE Co-ordinators. In association with the HSE Regional Steering Group on Suicide, teachers were invited to a workshop on using the “Feeling Low? Let Someone Know” Resource Pack in the classroom. This resource was developed in co-operation with Transition Year students and SPHE Co-ordinators throughout the Midlands. The resource pack includes a short DVD, outlines what services are available to individuals in crisis from various HSE Services (Mental Health, Psychology, Social Work, etc.) and other Voluntary Support Services. Participants received a copy of the resource pack on the evening.

Facilitator: Josephine Rigney, Training & Development Officer, HSE Midlands Suicide Service

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
20 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.00pm	10	0	0	0	10	20

► **Taking Care of the Teacher**

This two-evening course on ‘Taking Care of the Teacher’ looked at the following ten key steps:

- Learn to value yourself and recognise your strengths
- The Power of Positive Thinking
- Self-Care and the Pursuit of Happiness
- Keeping a Sense of Perspective & a Sense of Humour
- Enhancing your Self-Esteem
- Realising your Potential
- Effective Communication
- Managing Conflict and Managing Stress
- Awareness of Workplace Bullying
- Recommended Best Practice in Schools

Facilitator: Marion Flanagan, Grad/Dip. Anti-Bullying

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
3 rd & 10 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.00pm	5	0	10	0	15	60

► **Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management Training Programme**

The Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management programme was developed by Professor Carolyn Webster-Stratton (University of Washington, Seattle). This programme teaches evidence-based practices and strategies that have been shown to reduce problem behaviour in the classroom and strengthen children’s social, emotional and academic competencies.

The programme which is delivered by two facilitators is being delivered over three full-day workshops and four half-day workshops to a group of about 15 teachers. This programme will continue in 2011.

It introduces the content of the workshops and the collaborative teaching style which builds on teacher’s existing expertise. The programme meets the stated objectives of NEPS with regard to increasing teacher effectiveness, early intervention and prevention of behaviour difficulties through promotion of social and emotional competence. Further information on the programme is available on www.incredibleyears.com.

Facilitators: Mary Sherwin & Mary Peelo, NEPS

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
2 nd Nov 10	Central Hotel, Tullamore	9 - 3pm	0	0	12	2	14	70
23 rd Nov 10		1 - 4pm	0	0	12	2	14	42
14 Dec 10		1 - 4pm	0	0	12	2	14	42

► **Mentoring**

In association with The National Induction Programme at St Patrick’s College, Laois Education Centre offered the Mentor Training Programme. A mentor is an experienced teacher who undertakes to support the professional development of a newly qualified teacher (NQT). NPPTI recommended that teachers wishing to train as a mentor should:

- Be fully probated
- Have a minimum of 5 years teaching experience.
- Be nominated by their school to undertake the role

Facilitator: Kathryn Corbett, National Induction Office

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
6 th , 13 th & 20 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	9.00–3.00pm		0	18	0	18	270

► **Music Made Easy”: Samba Drumming Workshop**

This practical two-evening course covered the basics of Samba Drumming using traditional samba instruments.

- Samba Drumming is a great way to get pupils of all abilities involved in Music.
- The 3 strands of the Music Curriculum were covered in this workshop.
- Each teacher received a samba resource pack and C.D.

Facilitators: Paula Grant, B.Mus.Ed, T.T.C.T. and Sharon Grant, B.Mus. H.Dip, T.T.C.T.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
8 th & 15 th Nov 10	Scoil Bhride BNS, Tullamore	7.00–9.00pm	0	0	6	0	6	24

► **Ceartú na Scrúdháipéar 2010**

“Ardteist, Ardleibhéal” & “Ardteist, Gnáthleibhéal”

Facilitator: Micheál Ó Ruairc

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
9 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.30pm	27	2	0	0	29	72.5

► **Launch of New Maths Website and Support Group**

The new maths website (www.laoismathsresources.org) was launched and the facilitator also explored the possibility of setting up a new maths support group.

Facilitator: Seamus Knox, Department of the Inspectorate

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
16 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.00pm	10	8	0	0	18	36

► **Using ICT in the Post-Primary Classroom Across a Number of Subject Areas**

This whole-staff workshop looked at:

- Plans in place in the school to install workstations in each room (to enable rollout of ePortal) and projectors.
- Integrating ICT into all classrooms.
- A number of video clips of teachers using ICT in the Post-Primary classroom, across a number of subject areas.

- Advice on the location of such equipment, in the event that some rooms would later be provided with IWBs.

Facilitator: David Kearney, ICT4 Schools

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
17 th Nov 10	Coláiste Phobal, Roscrea	9.00–4.00pm	35	19	0	0	54	135

► **Down Syndrome and Education**

This two hour session for teachers and SNAs looked at the learning profile of students with Down syndrome, outlined and explored the main implications of Down syndrome for education, and discussed how teachers can best address the needs of these pupils. Issues around learning and academics, development, inclusion and behaviour were also discussed.

Facilitator: Alison O’Meara, Educational Officer, Down Syndrome Ireland

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
17 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.00pm	0	0	38	0	38	76

► **The Diorama—With a Christmas & Winter Theme**

This workshop for teachers and SNAs covered planning, making & looking and responding to the Diorama. The facilitator demonstrated the making of creative Christmas and winter scenes which may be used as stand-alone art in the classroom or used to make snowglobes, Christmas tree decorations, and Christmas crib scenes. Participants made snowglobes and Christmas decorations using a variety of materials and methods.

Facilitator: Marian White, Trained Vis. Arts Facilitator

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd Nov 10	Dooly’s Hotel, Birr	7.00–9.00pm	0	0	14	0	14	28
14 th December	Laois Education Centre	4.00 – 6.00pm	0	0	10	0	10	20

► **Aistear –New Curriculum**

The Aistear Curriculum is a new curriculum launched by the NCCA specifically aimed from years 0-6. It provides opportunities for creative and hands-on learning in the infant classroom and complements the new curriculum. This two-evening course provided opportunities for infant teachers to look at new teaching methodologies, activities, resources and the opportunity to share new ideas. This course was particularly suited to teachers that are new or becoming reacquainted with the infant class room.

Facilitator: Niamh Campion, Trained Aistear Facilitator

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
24 th Nov & 9 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	7.00–9.00pm	0	0	16	1	17	68

► **Managing People With Aggressive Behaviour**

This workshop looked at:

- What aggression is really about
- How to recognise aggressive behaviour
- How to defuse aggressive behaviour
- Ways to identify the problem
- How to outline a plan of action
- How to reduce risk
- Ways to reduce feeling overwhelmed, isolated or alone

Facilitator: Moira O Reilly, BeLifeConfident

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
8 th Dec 10	Scoil Mhuire, Portlaoise	1.00 – 3.00pm	0	0	31	1	32	64

LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE PROJECTS AND ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING 2010

► TL21 – Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century Transfer Initiative Pilot Project (Year 2)

The final term of the second year of this pilot project continued in January 2010. The following schools were happy to continue to participate in the project with an option of other schools attending workshops on a once-off basis. This concluded the pilot project.

- Scoil Chríost Portlaoisic
- Banagher College
- Knockbeg College Carlow

Workshop 1 – How to set up and use Moodle in a school setting

Facilitators: Cornelius Young, SLSS & Fergal O’ Neill, Post-Primary Teacher

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
9 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	5.00 – 8.00pm	11	7	0	0	18	54

Workshop 2 – Co-operative Learning

Facilitator: Maria Garvey, SLSS

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
9 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	5.00 – 8.00pm	6	2	0	0	8	24

Workshop 3 – Coaching & Mentoring

Facilitator: Catherine Moynihan, LDS

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
13 th Apr 10	Laois Education Centre	5.00 – 8.00pm	3	2	0	0	5	15

► **TL21 – Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century Transfer Initiative New Project**

Following the success of the pilot project, in September Laois Education Centre in partnership with NUI Maynooth invited all post-primary schools in the catchment area to participate in a new two-year project. Tom Moore, formerly of LDS, was appointed project co-ordinator and visited many of the interested schools outlining the project aims and benefits to schools.

The following schools applied to participate in the project.

- Portlaoise College
- Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore
- St Fergal’s College, Rathdowney
- Mountrath Community School
- Athy College
- Colaiste Iosagáin, Portarlington
- Killina Secondary School, Tullamore

Workshop 1 focused on:

- Introductions/Protocols/Setting the Context
- The person of the Teacher
- Working as a team
- Key learning/practical tasks

Facilitators: Tom Moore, Project Co-ordinator & LDS Associate and Sheila McManamly, PDST & LDS

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
21 st Sept 10	Laois Education Centre	5.00 – 8.00pm	27	7	0	0	35	102

Workshop 2 focused on:

- Reports from Schools- (oral presentation-5 mins. per school)
- (Resumé of chosen teaching and learning activity, progress to date & successes/challenges)
- Project management for successful outcomes
- Project management - using the Template
- Key learning & practical tasks

Facilitators: Anne Henry, SDPI and Catherine Moynihan, PDST & LDS

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
12 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	5.00 – 8.00pm	33	12	0	0	45	135

Workshop 3 focused on:

- Caring for self - as a person and as a professional
- School - teams meeting and agreed report
- Good homework practice- a Gallen Community School initiative

Facilitators: Marion Flanagan, Grad/Dip. Anti-Bullying and Tom Moore,
Project Co-ordinator & LDS Associate

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	5.00 – 8.00pm	23	6	0	0	29	87

► **An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G.)**

The S.C.G. Course provides an opportunity for Primary Teachers who obtained their teaching qualifications outside of the State to acquire the qualification in Irish. This is necessary to gain recognition as a primary teacher within the state.

Academic year 2009/2010

Laois Education Centre in association with Coláiste Mhuire Marino offered this course in the Centre in the academic year 2009/2010. Nine teachers have completed this course which commenced in September 2009.

Facilitator: Liam Ó hOistín S.C.G. Tutor

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
Jan – Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30 – 9.30pm	0	0	6	1	7	197.75

Academic year 2010/2011

Eight teachers are currently undertaking the SC.G. in the academic year 2010/2011

Facilitator: Liam Ó hOistín S.C.G. Tutor

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
Nov – Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30 – 9.30pm	0	1	4	3	8	64

► **Practical Enterprise Programme Based Around the Development of a School Website**

Laois Education Centre was delighted to work in partnership with Offaly County Enterprise Board on the second year of this very engaging project. The ultimate aim of the project was to facilitate and support a group of 5 schools in the creation of an up-to-date website for their school while simultaneously fostering business and enterprise skills among the participating 5th and 6th class pupils. Each school involved was provided with a three-user license for WebSite X5 , which is a completely visual software that in just five steps allows the user to create, customize and publish professional websites. Furthermore domain names (.ie) and hosting for a three year period was organised by Laois Education Centre.

Offaly County Enterprise Board visited each of the schools involved on at least one occasion and provided the pupils with thought provoking exercises in the area of team building, creative thinking, planning and research, organisation, goal setting, marketing, communication, and accounting. Children were encouraged to examine their reasons for creating a school website, to focus on how they might communicate with their audience, market, fund and advertise their site, develop their teamwork skills and think creatively as they developed their website. The pupils enthusiastically applied their newly acquired skills as they began planning their site content.

Following these sessions, participating teachers gathered at night to receive training on ‘How to Create a Schools Website using their Website X5 software’, which was organised under the NCTE Teaching Skills Initiative (TSI) in Laois Education Centre. These workshops were completely hands-on and the children’s work was used by the teachers as they learned how to design and create a website. The teachers then returned to their classes each week to pass on these skills to their pupils and to receive further input and revisions from the authors of various pages.

Exhibition of Websites

Teachers and pupils from the five participating schools were invited to exhibit their websites. Speakers from 5th and 6th classes confidently presented their sites to the assembled guests in the Tullamore Court Hotel and webmasters were provided with an opportunity to appreciate the work undertaken by other schools and to enjoy their own achievement.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
3 rd Feb 10	Tullamore Court Hotel	4.00-5.30pm	0	0	50	20	70	105

► **Tóráíocht - A Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership**

This one-year Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership, a partnership with LDS and NUI Maynooth for Primary and Post-Primary teachers with an interest in future senior leadership and management positions commenced in Laois Education Centre in September 2010. Eleven workshops took place from September to December 2010 and seven will take place from January – April 2011.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
Sept – Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	4.30-8.00pm	0	0	15	3	18	693

► **Diploma in Leadership and Management in Education in association with Trinity College**

The Post-graduate Diploma in Leadership and Management in Education is an in-service qualification that offers participants the opportunity to undertake a general study of the theory and practice of educational leadership and management.

Module 1 - Leading and Managing Learning in Schools: Student Learning and Professional Learning

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
8 th & 9 th Jan 10 12 th & 13 th Feb 10	Laois Education Centre	9.00-5.00pm 6.00-9.00pm	3	1	8	0	12	240

Module 2 - Leading and Managing Human Relations

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
16 th & 17 th Apr 10 7 th & 8 th May 10	Laois Education Centre	9.00-5.00pm 6.00-9.00pm	3	1	8	1	13	260

Module 3 - Leadership & Management in Education: An Introduction

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
15 th & 16 th Oct 10 12 th & 13 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	9.00-5.00pm 6.00-9.00pm	2	2	5	0	9	180

► **Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs**

The Induction Programme for Newly Qualified Teachers, in conjunction with the Education Centre Network, offered a series of seminars for NQTs in 21 Education Centres around the country in the school year 2010/11. The seminars are workshop-based and designed to provide NQTs with practical strategies for their classroom practice. The seminars will also afford NQTs the opportunity to seek advice and guidance from experienced practitioners and to network with other NQTs. Ten workshops will be offered over the course of the academic year 2010/2011, four of which ran between September – December 2010. The remaining eight will be offered between January – June 2011.

Workshop 1 – Now That I am a Teacher.....From College to Classroom

This workshop provided an opportunity for NQTs to reflect on and explore some of the professional issues that may arise for them during their first year in teaching. Particular attention was paid to the following aspects: working as part of a school team, working with other adults in a professional setting, caring for the voice, and the Teaching Council Codes of Professional Conduct. Opportunities to explore and discuss other pertinent issues were also be provided.

Facilitators: Niamh Kelly & Sue Duffy, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
28 th Sept 10	Laois Education Centre	4.30 – 6.30pm	0	0	18	1	19	38
30 th Sept 10			0	0	18	2	20	40

Workshop 2 - Classroom Management and Organisation

This workshop aimed to equip NQTs with a range of practical strategies to create an effective teaching and learning environment. Areas explored: setting up effective classroom systems, organising the classroom layout, creating display and special interest areas, devising classroom rules, organising effective class transitions and working with early finishers. Opportunities to discuss and share strategies and ideas, in class groupings, are a central element of this workshop.

Facilitators: Niamh Kelly & Sue Duffy, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
12 th Oct 10 14 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	4.30 – 6.30pm	0	0	20	2	22	44
			0	0	19	3	22	44

Workshop 3 - Planning and Preparation 02/11/10

This workshop is designed to assist NQTs to plan in a focused, effective and efficient manner. Requirements regarding planning, preparation and recording of progress were discussed and clarified. This module used the guidelines for long-term planning and short-term planning which are available on www.teacherinduction.ie as the key reference. Opportunities to ask questions, seek clarifications and share knowledge and ideas were provided in this workshop.

Facilitators: Niamh Kelly & Sue Duffy, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
2 nd Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	4.30 – 6.30pm	0	0	22	2	24	48
4 th Nov 10			0	0	26	6	32	64

Workshop 4 - Working with Parents 23/11/10

This workshop focused on the benefits of a good working relationship with parents. NQTs were encouraged to work closely with parents to achieve optimum learning outcomes for their pupils. Effective communication skills and strategies for building positive relationships were explored through role-play. Conducting parent-teacher meetings, both formal and informal was a key focus of this workshop.

Facilitators: Niamh Kelly & Sue Duffy, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
2 nd Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	4.30 – 6.30pm	0	0	21	3	24	48
4 th Nov 10			0	0	22	6	28	56

► Post-Primary National Induction Programme for NQTs

An induction programme is now available in 21 Education Centres for all newly qualified teachers in their first years in the profession. Benefits of induction include an increased sense of professional confidence, the development of a culture of lifelong learning and an enhanced professional status. This programme comprises of eight modules which will be offered over the course of the academic year 2010/2011, three of which were offered in Laois Education Centre from September – December 2010. The remaining five workshops will be offered between January – May 2011.

Workshop 1 – Introduction to the Programme, Reflection & Creating a Good Climate for Classroom Management

Facilitators: Rachel Farrell & Aoife Healion, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
20 th Oct 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30 – 10.00pm	5	0	0	0	5	12.5

Workshop 2 – Special Needs & the use of ICT and Relationship with Parents

Facilitators: Rachel Farrell & Aoife Healion, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
24 th Nov 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30 – 10.00pm	8	2	0	0	10	25

Workshop 3 – Special Needs & the use of ICT and Relationship with Parents continued

Facilitators: Rachel Farrell & Aoife Healion, NIP Facilitators

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
15 th Dec 10	Laois Education Centre	7.30 – 10.00pm	8	1	0	0	9	22.5

► Write-a-Book Project

Over eight hundred teachers, parents and pupils converged on the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise on Wednesday 5th May and over four hundred and fifty arrived at Racket Hall Hotel, Roscrea on Tuesday 27th May to celebrate the publication of over 1,350 books by 1432 pupils from thirty three schools in the Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Carlow and North Tipperary) in the Write-a-Book project. This project is co-ordinated by Laois Education Centre in partnership with Laois Enterprise Board.

The Write-a-Book project, which is in its twelfth year, links the curricular areas of Visual Arts and English, while also prompting integration with practically every other curricular area for teacher and pupil. It is a very valuable tool for teachers to develop pupil writing and in particular creative writing skills while at the same time it gives pupils the opportunity to explore different genres, language and structure and enables them develop techniques and skills and ultimately see their writing valued.

Guest of Honour on the night, Jim O'Brien, journalist, author, radio presenter and scriptwriter for RTE, complimented Laois Education Centre on the very efficient organisation of the project. He said the books were a great compliment to all the teachers, pupils and parents involved. He also said that it was not just the number of books published that was significant; it was the quality of the work of all involved. Jim entertained all present with his reading of a selection of Spike Milligan poems and a rendering of his own song 'Nappy Love' much to the amusement of both young and old present. Jim also emphasised how writing was such a creative process and recalled how he had been supported by teachers when he was in school.

Jim Enright, Director of Laois Education Centre, said the Write-a-Book project is one of the most exciting, interesting and finest projects for pupils organised by Laois Education Centre. Jim went on to say that 'we are honoured this evening to be in the presence of so many fine young writers' and commented on the quality of the books which represented a very diverse range of topics from poetry, travel, sport, novels and many other topics, all of which were beautifully and artistically illustrated. This year we received entries from one Gaelscoil and were delighted to have entries for the very first time from an Educate Together school. Jim thanked his colleagues in the Education Centre particularly Yvonne Nolan and Margaret Mary Grant who had done enormous work in coordinating and organizing the vast quantity of entries. He thanked the teachers who supported their pupils, read other class books and helped with recommending merit awards. He also thanked the pupils and their family members and had a special word of thanks for the local project co-ordinators Rosemary Day and Bridie Dunne for their support of the project over the many years, Anne Buggie, Mary McCarthy and Dinah Kingsley for their help at the awards evening and finally thanked Jim O'Brien for his contribution to the evening. 125 Merit awards and 310 highly commended awards were presented over the two evenings by Jim O'Brien and each of the 1432 participating pupils received a certificate of participation.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
27 th Apr 10	Racket Hall Hotel,	7.30 – 9.00pm	0	0	22	8	30	45
5 th May 10	Roscrea Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise	7.30 – 9.00pm	0	0	42	5	47	70.5

► **Farm Safety Poster Competition**

Laois and Kilkenny Education Centres, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), organised a Poster Competition for primary schools. The competition was aimed at raising awareness among students and their families about safety issues on farms. Participating schools were asked to encourage their students to discuss the competition at home in order to raise awareness of farm safety issues among the whole family. Statistics from the HSA reveal that accidents on farms give rise to on average 18 deaths per year and generally account for 30% of all fatal accidents at work. Students participating in the competition did not have to be from a farming background.

Suggested Categories of Posters were:

- Safety on tractors and/or farm machinery
- Safety when dealing with farm animals
- Safety of children on the farm
- Safety of grandparents or other elderly persons on farms
- Farm buildings
- Water hazards on the farm

The initiative involved a poster competition for primary school children. The following schools submitted 137 posters in total.

- Broughall N
- Convent of Mercy NS, Borris in Ossory
- Castlecuffe PS, Clonaslee
- Clonmore NS
- Ballyroan BNS
- St Paul's COI Mountmellick
- Rathcabbin NS

12 winning posters (6 from Laois and 6 from Kilkenny) were published in a Health and Safety Authority calendar and all participating schools received copies of this calendar. The competition was launched at the National Ploughing Championships in Athy in September.

An awards night for Kilkenny and Laois winning schools will take place in 2011.

► **Co-operation is Cool Schools Project**

This project is offered in partnership with Laois Education Centre, Laois Partnership and Glanbia. 360 pupils from 9 primary and post-primary schools exhibited 14 projects in the Co-operation is Cool Project and the result of their work was evaluated on Thursday 11th March 2010 in Laois Education Centre. The pupils have been supported by their teachers, the curriculum resource materials prepared by Paddy Bates of Laois Education Centre, parents and their local community in preparing their projects based on Co-operation.

Prize Winners:

Prize	School	Project	Teacher
Winner Post Primary	Tullamore College	Faithful Sporting Ltd	Renee Gallagher
Winner Primary	Scoil Naisiúnta Naomh Eoin, Rath, Birr	Co-operation is Cool in Fairyland School	Caitriona Howell & Maria Davis
Runner-Up Post Primary	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise	Zoom Anonymous	Norma Dwyer
Runner-Up Primary	Sacred Heart PS, Portlaoise	Fit Factor	Roseann Sherlock & Eimear Gallagher
2 nd Runner-Up Primary	St Josephs PS, Tullamore,	The Blue Sky Storybook & CD	Helen Nelligan
2 nd Runner-Up Post Primary	Tullamore College	Thing a Majig	Renee Gallagher
1 st New Entrant	Scoil Phadraig Naofa BNS, Mountmellick	E.C.C.O. Emo Court Co-operation	Eamonn Riall & Deirdre Challoner
Runner-Up New Entrant	St Paul's BNS, Portlaoise	Comhaltas Ceoltóiri Portlaoise	Róise Nevin
Highly Commended Primary	Castlecuffe NS, Clonaslee	What Goes Around Comes Around – Helping others Help US	Bridie Dunne, Grace Digan & Roisin Carton
Highly Commended Primary	Camross NS	Spinning a Yarn	Mary McCarthy & Talitha Horan
Highly Commended Post Primary	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise	Funky Donkey Hoodies	Norma Dwyer
Highly Commended	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise	Sleeves 4 Ease	Norma Dwyer
Highly Commended	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise	Magic Memories	Norma Dwyer
Highly Commended	Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise	Glove Buddies	Norma Dwyer

In addition to Laois Partnership and Glanbia who have sponsored the prizes for this competition since its initiation, NIS (Network Infrastructure Systems (NIS) Rahan, Tullamore sponsored the project again this year and ICOS have come on board as a new sponsor this year. Laois Education Centre coordinates and co-sponsors this event. Without the continued support of the partners and our new sponsors this project would not be feasible. Each participating school received a framed certificate of participation, a copy of Office and Publisher software and each participating student received a certificate.

The overall prize of a Netbook was sponsored by Gerry Buckley, Director of NIS, Rahan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Other prizes which included Netbooks, Digital Cameras, portable Hard Drives and Memory Keys were presented by Ann Goodwin from Laois Partnership, John Carroll and Jim Delaney from Glanbia, Ray Doyle from ICOS and members of the adjudication panel.

The project was evaluated by:

Ray Doyle	ICOS
Dominic McEvoy	Post Primary Deputy Principal
Bridie Dunne	Retired Primary School Principal
Rosemary Day	Co-ordinator of Emo Project, Laois Education Centre
Sean Hearn	Co-operation is Cool Steering Committee
Evelyn Reddin	Laois County Enterprise Board

Dominic McEvoy, Chairperson of the Adjudicating Panel, welcomed everyone to the seventh year of the project which has been very popular with both primary and post-primary schools as a means of developing the knowledge that young people have around co-operation and the history of the co-operative movement and its importance in Ireland. The project also introduces the concept of working together to young people as Laois Partnership, Glanbia and Laois Education Centre are doing so successfully with this project. This project has been a great success and the 14 projects prove this. The skills learned by the students in this programme are never forgotten, even if not used for a number of years. To see young people becoming involved in their own local area and for the benefit of their community is positive and part of the ethos of the partners.

Dominic also congratulated the teachers, pupils and parents on their wonderful creative work. He thanked the schools that continue to support this project and welcomed new schools. He also thanked the partners Laois Partnership and Glanbia for their continued support of the project and welcomed the two additional new sponsors NIS, Rahan, Tullamore and ICOS. Dominic thanked all in the Centre for their work and for continuing to make this project available to schools. He further thanked Paddy Bates who although retired has put a lot of work into ensuring that this competition is a success.

Paddy Bates who mc'd the evening, welcomed and thanked teachers, parents, pupils, judges, partners Glanbia and Laois Partnership and new sponsors NIS and ICOS. Paddy presented each participating school with a framed certificate and a copy of Office and Publisher software.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
11 th Mar 10	Laois Education Centre	3.30-7.30pm	2	1	16	3	22	88

LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE ICT PROVISION 2010

► Introduction

Some Key ICT Targets and Priority Courses 2010:

Generally, the following courses will be scheduled as courses open to all teachers at least once per term (spring and autumn), but may also be run as whole school training. The exceptions to this are the interactive whiteboard courses, which can **only** be run as whole school training.

- To schedule and promote other NCTE mainstream courses throughout the year.
- To achieve uptake of whole school training by 10% of the schools in each education centre catchment area.
- To reduce the number of course cancellations.
- To review local training needs via the existing NCTE course evaluations for each education centre catchment area, with a view to planning a response to those needs in future course delivery and funding applications.
- To offer a mix of different types of courses/CPD events throughout the year to (mainstream, whole school, support groups) to facilitate access by teachers.

► NCTE priority courses (2010)

- Starting your School's e-Learning Plan (2.5hrs– targeting post primary in particular)
- ICT & Language in the Primary Classroom (5hrs)
- ICT & Maths (12.5 hrs)
- NCTE's new introductory modules as they become available
- Re TFC agus an Ghaeilge,

► Local Priority in 2010 (in order of priority)

- Whole School Training
- Website X 5
- ICT & Maths Whole school Training
- Support Groups
- Non-Mainstream Courses

► School Supports: Emails and Phone Support

Schools were supported in the following ways:

- Phone support: 1056 phone queries received by the ICT Administrator during 2010
- Email support: received and responded to 1600 relevant emails

► Teaching Skills Initiative - Continuing Professional Development for Teachers

Like previous years, teacher professional development courses continued to be offered as whole-school activities and/or centre-based or outreach centre activities.

- Modular courses, using a mix and match of content/materials from existing programmes, continue to be offered.
- Professional development in a whole-school context, where the provision was tailored to target topics that have been determined by the school in consultation with the Director and tutor.

- Grouping and clustering of small schools to provide tailored courses. The professional development needs of teachers are identified through individual requests from teachers and principals, through meetings with tutors and through surveys.

This was the eleventh consecutive year of offering continuing professional development courses to teachers. There has been one constant during these eleven years i.e. teacher demand for and participation in these courses has continued to remain high and feedback has generally been very positive. This feedback is obtained both informally from both tutors and participants and formally through online course evaluation using Survey Monkey. During the year, we ran courses and support groups in areas such as Laois Education Centre, Sacred Heart Secondary School Tullamore, Scoil Mhuire, Kilcruttin Tullamore, Clonlisk National School, Borrisokane NS, Derrylamogue NS School, Coláiste Phobal Roscrea, Scoil Padraig Naofa, Mountmellick, and whole school courses and support groups were held in the following schools, St. Mary's NS Walsh Island, Scoil Naisiúnta Naomh Eoin, Birr, Killenard NS, Ballinamere NS, Co. Offaly, Ballyfin NS, Killeigh National School, Scoil Bhride Portlaoise, Church of Ireland NS Rathdowney, St. Anne's Special School, Roscrea, Mucklagh NS, Tullamore. As with other years, the majority of course attendees are primary female teachers.

► **National and Local Projects with ICT Component**

Local Projects: ICT – a whole school approach is a project that continues to run in the Sacred Heart Primary School, Portlaoise. This project has been ongoing for the past five years. The aim of this programme (which is about developing a programme for a new learning culture for primary schools) is to ensure that all children will have an opportunity to enhance their curriculum learning with the support of technology. Students are engaging in active and authentic learning through computer use.

► **Dissolving Boundaries**

The Dissolving Boundaries Programme uses ICT to facilitate cross-cultural educational linkages between schools in the North and South of Ireland and is jointly funded by the two governments. Schools and pupils use a range of technologies including email, online discussion and collaboration through applications such as Moodle, MS Word or PowerPoint which will facilitate online collaboration in their chosen educational projects. Scoil Mhuire NS Tullamore has rejoined this project. Heywood Community School is also involved in this project.

► **Empowering Minds**

Three schools in our region are involved in this exciting project, which serves to promote a greater awareness of the potential of control technologies in a classroom environment. The schools involved are Ballyadams NS, Sacred Heart School Portlaoise and Scoil Eoin Pól, Tullamore.

► **FIS (Film in Schools) Project 2010:**

This project which is being run in conjunction with local Education Centre, NCTE and DunLaoghaire Institute of Art and Design is in its sixth year and proved to be a huge success both locally and

nationally. Locally seven schools took part in the screening in the Storm Cinema on 26th May 2010. The following is a list of the category winners:

Film Title	School	Category
Shrek goes to VTOS	VTOS Tullamore	Best Art Direction
Ó Ghlún go Glún	Killadooley NS	Best News Production
Nuacht	Scoil Eoin Pol 2 Tullamore	Best Screenplay
Lá sa Phortach	Clonlisk NS	Best Camera and Cinematography
Dancing Shoes	Ballyadams NS	Best Production Design
The Murt Files	CBS Portlaoise	Best use of Location
Laois has Talent	St. Paul's NS Portlaoise	Best Entertainment Film

'Dancing Shoes' went on to represent Laois Education Centre at the national awards in October 2010 in the Helix in October 2010 and won Best Choreography Category

► **Kidsmart**

There are now a total of eight schools involved in this worldwide project which involves which is designed to explore the role of ICT in early childhood development and to help bridge the digital divide. In Ireland, the programme consists primarily of the donation to schools of specially designed Kidsmart Young Explorer Early Learning computer centres for children aged 3-7 years, which are equipped with a selection of suitable educational software programmes suitable for young children. IBM had already donated six Kidsmart early learning centres in our area, with the following schools benefiting - Camross NS, Cullohill NS (2), Convent Primary School Birr, Newtown NS, Crettyard and Scoil Iosef Naofa Corville Roscrea. The following schools were added to the list of Kidsmart schools and received their units recently which brings the total of units in our region up to nine: Gaelscoil an Eiscir Riada, Tullamore, Sacred Heart School, Portlaoise (2), Derrylamogue NS.

► **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

The NCTE-developed courses in ICT and Special Needs have been successful in creating and raising awareness levels in terms of how hardware, software and the Internet can support the work that is being done in the classroom. There continues to be a demand for the different courses and generally course participants wish to progress through the different levels of the ICT and Special Needs Courses ranging from the Introductory Course to the course for Moderate/Severe/Profound. During 2010, two ICT and Special Needs courses were run in association with Laois Education Centre, one in St. Anne's Special School, Roscrea and one in Mucklagh National School Tullamore with a total of 20 teachers attending.

► **ICT & Maths Workshops**

The Project Maths Development Team, in conjunction with the NCTE, ran a series of workshops to support the integration of ICT into the teaching of mathematics. These introductory modules focus on the use of software to teach geometry, trigonometry and statistics. They also included a short introduction to using a laptop with a data projector.

Course duration: This course consisted of 5 modules. Each module has been designed to be of 2.5 hours in duration.

Target Audience: These modules are aimed at Post-Primary teachers of mathematics who are interested in integrating ICT within their classroom.

► **In-service seminars for Post-Primary Principals on planning for ICT (2010-2011)**

The aim of these seminars is to provide Principals with an overview of what planning for ICT involves and to give them some practical information on the supports available in furthering the use of ICT in learning and teaching.

This one day seminar will focus on:

- Assisting Principals in the development of the school's e-learning Plan
- Supports available to teachers and school
- Integrating ICT in the Primary and Post Primary curriculum
- Availing of ICT professional development
- ICT purchasing frameworks
- Identifying online tools and resources for teachers and students

ICT COURSES DELIVERED IN 2010

► Special Needs & ICT Learning Support Course

The course is intended to provide teachers with information on ICT use in learning support as well as specific strategies, tools and resources to use in the integration of ICT into the curriculum.

● These Courses were facilitated by Neil O’Sullivan

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
19 th March 2010	Mucklagh NS	9.30am-1.30pm	0	0	10	0	10	25
1 st – 7 th July 2010	St. Anne’s Special School Roscrea	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	9	2	11	220

► Scoilnet & Online Encyclopaedias

This new short course provides the skills required to find and use educational resources on www.scoilnet.ie, Encyclopaedia online and World Book online

● This workshop was facilitated by Karen Gleeson

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
2 nd Nov 2010	Laois Education Centre	7.00pm-9.30pm	0	0	10	0	10	25

► In-service seminars for Post-Primary Principals on planning for ICT (2010-2011)

The aim of these Seminars is to provide Principals with an overview of what planning for ICT involves and to give you some practical information on the supports available in furthering the use of ICT in learning and teaching.

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd Nov 2010	Laois Education Centre	9.30am-3.30pm	6	5	0	0	11	55

► **Introduction to ICT in the Classroom:**

The following modules are included in this 10/20 hour course.

- PC's and File Management, Creating presentations and worksheets, Introduction to Digital Media and an Introduction to Internet and email.
- These introductory modules are suitable for all teachers who wish to extend their capacity to use a range of ICT applications in support of teaching and learning in the classroom environment
- These courses were facilitated by Angela Casey, Brid Murphy, Richard Conroy, Karen Gleeson, Andrew Monaghan and Brigid Anne Ryan

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th July 2010	St. Mary's NS Walsh Island	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	8	2	10	200
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Ballinamere NS Co. Offaly	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	13	1	14	280
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Scoil Naisiunta Naomh Eoin	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	13	4	17	340
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Ballyfin NS	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	8	3	11	220
23 rd Aug – 27 th Aug 2010	Rathdowney NS	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	11	1	12	240
1 st Nov – 1 st Nov 2010	Derry-lamogue NS	9.30am-3.00pm	0	0	10	0	10	50

► **Digital Media for Learning**

The purpose of this course is to explore the art of photography, how to transfer photos to your PC, how to edit your photos using Paint Shop Pro 8 or equivalent software, how to import your photos into various application programmes like MS Word, Publisher and PowerPoint to support day-to-day classroom activities.

- These courses were facilitated by Paddy Carroll, Joe Varley, John Crowe and Fergal Murphy

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Scoil Mhuire NS, Tullamore	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	16	0	16	320
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Laois Education Centre	9.30am-2.00pm	0	0	9	1	10	200

► **In-service seminars for Primary Principals on planning for ICT (2010-2011)**

The aim of these Seminars is to provide Principals with an overview of what planning for ICT involves and to give you some practical information on the supports available in furthering the use of ICT in learning and teaching. This one day seminar will focus on:

- These courses were facilitated by Willie McTiernan, Anne White, Gerard Logue, Eugene Dunbar , Neil O’Sullivan and Clifford Brown

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
2 nd Feb 2010	Laois Education Centre	9.30am-3.30pm	0	0	19	9	28	140
4 th Feb 2010	Laois Education Centre	9.30am-3.30pm	0	0	14	8	22	110
5 th Feb 2010	Laois Ed Centre	9.30am-3.30pm	0	0	20	10	30	150

► **Whole School Training Primary and Post-Primary**

- These workshops were facilitated by Willie McTiernan, Brigid Anne Ryan

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
23 rd March 2010	Laois Education Centre	7.00pm-9.30pm	0	0	14	8	22	55
30 th Aug 2010	Sacred Heart Secondary School Tullamore	10.30am-12.00pm	39	5	0	0	44	66
14 th Oct –9 th Dec 2010	Ballinamere NS	3.30pm-5pm	0	0	10	1	11	165
1 st Nov 2010	Killeigh NS	9.30am-3.30pm	0	0	10	2	12	90

► **Supporting and developing ICT as a Teaching and Learning Resource**

- The aim of the course is to provide an Introduction to a range of different technologies which can be used to enhance teaching and learning at primary level. This 20 hour course encourages a hands-on approach to learning. Modules are practical, demonstrating uses of different types of technologies but also their links to the primary school curriculum.

- This course was facilitated by Michael McEvoy, Brigid Anne Ryan, Noreen Maher, Sarah O’Grady, Aoife O’Sullivan

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Killenard NS	9.30am-2.30pm	0	0	15	1	16	320
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Clonlisk NS,Shinrone,	9.30am-2.30pm	0	0	14	1	15	300
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Scoil Bhríde NS,Portlaoise	9.30am-2.30pm	0	0	20	1	21	420

► **Internet and email in Teaching and Learning**

This 20 hour course has been developed for teachers who are interested in integrating the Internet & Email into their teaching & learning. This course comprises of the following modules: The Internet as a Classroom Resource, Getting More from your Web Browser, Searching the Web - Essential Skills, Using the Internet in the Classroom, Using Email in the Classroom, Security & Safety and Staying Ahead.

- This Course was facilitated by Mervyn Griffin and Norma Bourke

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st – 7 th July 2010	Scoil Mhuire, Borrisokane	9.30am-2.30pm	0	0	13	3	16	320

► **ICT & Gaeilge (Post-Primary)**

- Modúl 1 – Acmhainní ar líne: Online resources
- Modúl 2 – Cur i láthair a chruthú le TFC: Creating a powerpoint presentation
- Modúl 3 – Ilmheáin i gcomhthéacs na Gaeilge:Multimedia: mainly the use of Photostory 3
- Modúl 4 – Blaganna: Use of Blogs
- Modúl 5 – Podchraoladh: Podcasts

- This course was facilitated by Marguerite Herlihy

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
20 th Jan – 3 rd March 2010	Laois Education Centre	7.00-9.30pm	9	2	0	0	11	55

► **Podcasting**

Course Content:

- Assembly of podcasting kits
- Connections to computer and basic audio recording
- Introduction to audio files
- Downloading and using Audacity software (Audio editing)

- Basic editing of audio clips
- Multi-tracking (combining and mixing a number of tracks together)
- Saving audio for the web and for CD burning

● This course was facilitated by Aidan Barry

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
1 st March 2010	Laois Education Centre	7.00-9.30pm	2	1	9	1	13	32.5

► ICT & Maths Workshops

The Project Maths Development Team, in conjunction with the NCTE, ran a series of workshops to support the integration of ICT into the teaching of mathematics. These introductory modules focus on the use of software to teach geometry, trigonometry and statistics. They also included a short introduction to using a laptop with a data projector.

Course duration: This course consisted of 5 modules. Each module has been designed to be of 2.5 hours in duration.

Target Audience: These modules are aimed at Post Primary teachers of Mathematics who are interested in integrating ICT within their classroom.

Workshop 1:

GeoGebra for Synthetic Geometry-

Workshop 2:

GeoGebra for Co-ordinate Geometry-

Workshop 3:

GeoGebra for Trigonometry plus participants sharing their resources-

Workshops 4 & 5:

Excel for teaching Statistics-

This covers the use of Excel in the teaching of statistics. It will deal with the production of relevant graphs and formulae for both Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate from Strand 1.

● These courses were facilitated by Glen Brennan

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
22 th Apr – 13 th May 2010	Colaiste Phobal Roscrea	7.00pm-9.30pm	7	3	10	0	10	125
14 th Apr – 12 th May 2010	Laois Education Centre	7.00pm-9.30pm	5	10	0	0	15	187.5
29 th Sept – 10 th Nov 2010	Laois Education Centre	7.00pm-9.30pm	13	2	0	0	15	187.5

► **Smart Interactive White Board Workshop**

● This workshop was facilitated by Susan Lalor

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
18 th Nov 2010	Laois Education Centre	4.00pm-6.00pm	0	0	21	1	22	44

► **Using Website X5 To Create a School Website**

This 10 hour course shows the participant how to create, customize and publish a complete, functional and professional school website in five easy steps. Drag and drop text pictures, sound & audio files with a click of a mouse. No previous experience in Web Development, Programming or Design required for this course.

● These courses were facilitated by Willie McTiernan and Brian Boyle

Date	Venue	Time	Post-Primary Female	Post-Primary Male	Primary Female	Primary Male	Total	Contact Hours
18 th Jan – 25 th Jan 2010	Gaelscoil Tullamore	14 th Apr – 12 th May 2010	0	0	10	1	11	27.5
19 th Apr – 17 th May 2010	Laois Education Centre	14 th Apr – 12 th May 2010	0	0	10	0	10	100