

Laois Education Centre

Annual Report 2005

Thursday 23rd February 2006

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2005**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Paddy Bates, Joan White, Michael Martin, John Mulhare, Des Sutton, Mary Mahon, Ann Young, Dinah Kingsley, Norma Booth, Liam O'Neill and Niamh Campion

APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM:

Anne Buggie, Tony Mahon and John Courtney

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS:

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The meeting was chaired by Chairperson Des Sutton. Des thanked the committee for their help and support in the past year. He also thanked the staff of the Centre. He wished the Director a speedy recovery.

Des spoke of the challenging and successful year, the progress being made and the wide range of courses being offered.

He wished the incoming committee a successful year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the absence of the Director, on certified sick leave, the Director's report was presented by Liam O'Neill. The Director's report outlined the provision for the past year and plans for the future. It stated that last year, similar to the previous number of years, had been a year of continuous change, challenge, learning, agony and ecstasy for us and that this Centre had notable achievement and success due to the commitment of teachers in this community, that it was appropriate at our AGM to mention and celebrate the past, as it helps us have confidence in and inform the present, and it may, in some ways, help us to anticipate and create the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

This report, presented by the treasurer, Liam O'Neill, outlined the income and expenditure for the year as audited by Bardon Molumby and Company. The treasurer presented the report in detail, commenting on the further increase due to larger numbers of courses organised. He thanked the Committee for their help and advice during the year.

ELECTION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2005:

Desmond Sutton	St Paul's NS, Borris Raod, Portlaoise
Paddy Bates	Clonaslee, Co Laois
Joan White	Killenard NS., Killenard, Portarlington
John Courtney	Townspark, Mountmellick
Michael Martin	Ballinakill N.S., Ballinakill
Anne Buggie	Scoil Mhuire, Portlaoise
John Mulhare	Clough N.S., Ballacolla

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Mary Mahon	Scoil Christ Rí, Portlaoise
Ann Young	Scoil Christ Rí, Portlaoise
Dinah Kingsley	Camross N.S., Portlaoise
Norma Booth	Scoil Christ Rí, Portlaoise
Liam O'Neill	Trumera N.S., Mountrath
Niamh Campion	Newtown NS, Crettyard
Ann Marie Ryan	Sacred Heart N.S., Portlaoise

The AGM decided that the election of a Chairperson would be postponed until the next management committee meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

PROVISION FOR THE YEAR 2005 - DIRECTOR'S REPORT

President McAleese on her visit to this Centre on 27th September 2004 remarked 'Today we meet in a splendid Centre, part of a strong network of education centres throughout the country dedicated to providing teachers with vital support in their formidable responsible role as educators of our young children'. We have moved from a ceann faoi culture to a can do culture'.

The president also said that all commentators claimed that education was a main contributing factor to the can do culture.

I wish to use two quotes that are at the kernel and heart of the work all teachers are engaged in, but particularly in this area.

"Teachers don't merely deliver the curriculum. They develop, define and reinterpret it too" – *Fullan and Hargreaves*

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“No matter how school cultures are transformed, the individual teacher continues to make and remake the classroom, based on his or her imagination, spirit, inspiration and learning” - *Lieberman and Miller*

During the year we developed, designed and organised a number of courses, projects, workshops and support at Local, Regional and National level.

Approximately **4,679** teachers attended InService / Courses and projects through this centre in the past year which a total contact hours of **29,775**

The provision included:

LOCAL LEVEL:

- Induction for Newly Qualified Second Level Teachers
- Inclusive Special Education
- Effective Strategies for supporting Students with ADHD
- Screening for Special Needs
- ILSA
- Special Needs Assistant Courses
- Challenging Behaviour in the Classroom
- Hardwiring Differences in the Dyslexia Brain
- Augmentative Communication
- Circle Time
- All into Music
- Primary Science
- Teacher and the Law
- Voice Care for Teachers
- Meet the Poet
- All the Worlds a School
- Primary Music Workshops
- Mixed Ability Teaching
- Leaving Certificate French
- Whole School Evaluation – French
- Faces of Zimbabwe - Photographic Exhibition
- Committee Skills
- An Leabhar Mór
- Primary Science Workshops
- Speech and Drama
- ICT Courses, Projects and Support
- Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century in co-operation with St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth
- Multiple Intelligences – a pilot project
- Web Site Design Support
- Tutor Support
- Technology Workshops
- Co-operation is Cool Support night
- Website Development for Learning
- Digital Cameras and Paintshop Pro
- ICT and Geography Course
- Introduction to Network Management
- Empowering Minds Course (Lego)
- FIS Support

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- Network Management Support
- ICT and Guidance
- Introduction to Film Making
- Digital Cameras and Paintshop Pro
- Internet and email
- Using Microsoft Word Publisher, Powerpoint
- ICT a Curriculum Based Course
- Summer Tutor Support Workshop
- Website Design and Development for Learning
- Effective use of ICT in the Classroom
- Digital Cameras and Photo Editing for classroom use
- ICT and Special Needs
- Introduction to IT
- Powerpoint
- Make it Secure Workshop
- FIS Support

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL:

- New Primary Curriculum
- Second Level Support Service
- Leaving Certificate History
- Leaving Certificate Geography
- Leaving Certificate English
- Junior Certificate Science
- Junior Certificate Maths
- Home Economics
- Special Education Support Service
- Child Protection Guidelines
- Discover Primary Science
- RSE
- Circus and Fairground

ISLAND:

- Cross Border Project “Writing Together”

PUPILS AND COMMUNITY

- Write-A-Book Project
- Co-operation is Cool
- An Leabhar Mór
- Committee Skills
- Solfa Science
- Wood of Life Project
- Most Enterprising Student

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CO-OPERATION AT LOCAL REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

We have co-operated with and assisted a number of programmes including:

- LCA, CSPE, SPHE, FETAC, LCVP, SLSS, JMB, JSSS, TESS, School Development Planning, ILSA, CDC, NCTE, JCSP, Health Promotion Unit, IPPN, INTO, NCCA, Gender Equality, NUI Maynooth, Church of Ireland College of Education, University of Dublin, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, PCSP, Laois County Council, Laois Leader, Laois County Development Board, Laois Enterprise Board, Glanbia, Trinity, Prison Education Unit, FETAC, Entrust, National Parents Council, Maths Teachers Association, Laois Principals Forum, NEPS.

PROPOSED FUTURE COURSES / PROJECTS

- Leaving Certificate Oral French Exam
- Transition from Primary to Post Primary for Students with SEN
- An Introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Teaching Students with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties
- Managing Challenging Behaviour in the Mainstream Classroom
- Differentiating the Curriculum for Students with SEN
- Primary and Post Primary Schools as Learning Communities
- Heritage in Schools
- Care of Voice
- Teacher and the Law
- Introduction to Newell Literacy
- RSE Training for Teachers
- RSE information evening for Parents
- RSE Policy Committee Evening Meeting
- Primary Cuiditheoir Drop in Clinic
- Integrating ICT with SPHE and Visual Arts
- Special Needs Assistant Course
- A.S.I.S.T. – Suicide Awareness
- The Teacher as Writer Post Primary
- Laois Tourism Awareness Programme Art Competition
- Co-operation is Cool Project
- 'Our Agenda' Committee Skills Project for Primary Schools
- Write-A-Book Project
- An Leabhar Mór – The Great Book of Gaelic Project
- Support Group for the Implementation of Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom
- Irish Film Institute / Primary Science Project
- European Award for Languages

LIBRARY

The resources in the library include books and videos on the Leaving Certificate English Syllabus, Multiple Intelligences, Special Education and Physics. The full list of resources is available on our website.

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WEBSITE

A comprehensive website has been developed and is constantly being updated. The website includes details on courses and projects, extensive Educational links, links to the network of Education Centre and Educational Resource Archives.

SUBSTITUTION

We have available on request a list of teachers available for substitution.

THANK YOU

The members of the management committee, many of whom spent an enormous amount of time developing, encouraging and supporting the Centre, in matters relating to teaching, learning, administration and in all other matters.

I wish to pay special tribute to Catherine Dwyer, who passed away last year.

I wish to thank Áine, Yvonne, Margaret Mary, Rosemary, Jim, and Catherine, for their team work and unfailing good humour. I wish to thank John Moran, Special Education Needs Officer, Gerry Watchorn, S.D.P.I. and Fiona McGarry, National Education Welfare Board for their co-operation this past year.

Thanks are due to Shelagh Maher, Rosemount Catering and her staff for their services over the past year, to Kevin Delaney and Catherine, Kleen Kare, for their cleaning services, Gerry Kerry for his outdoor care-taking services and to Todor for his care-taking services.

I wish to Collette, our colleague in Athlone every success in the future.

The Director thanked all who were involved in the Centres work in the past year.

**THE FOLLOWING SUMMARISES THE PROGRAMMES, COURSES AND EVENTS FOR THE
YEAR 2005**

LOCAL COURSES 2005

COURSE TITLE	DATES	VENUE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
Challenging Behaviour in the Classroom	24-02-2005, 03-03-2005 and 10-03-2005	Laois Education Centre	16	144
Primary Science Workshops	05-04-2005, 12-04-2005	Laois Education	16	80

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		Centre		
Speech and Drama	13-01-05	Laois Education Centre	35	105
Learning Support	24-05-2005	Laois Education Centre	35	105
School Based InService	07, 08, 09-12-2004	Raddison SAS Hotel	120	1800
Special Needs Assistants Course	August – February 05 August – February 06	Laois Education Centre	48	2880
Mixed Ability Teaching	15-11-2005 and 29-11-2005	Laois Education Centre	9	36
Leaving Certificate Higher French Written Exam	24-11-2005	Laois Education Centre	35	70
Whole School Evaluation – French	01-12-2005	Laois Education Centre	50	100
Learning Support	06-12-2005	Laois Education Centre	35	105
Hard Wiring Differences in the Dyslexia Brain	07-04-2005	Laois Education Centre	56	140
Effective Strategies for supporting students with ADHD	26-09-2005	Laois Education Centre	23	46
Effective Strategies for supporting students with ADHD	28-09-2005	Crank House, Banagher	14	28
Teacher and the Law	28-09-2005, 18-10-2005 25-10-2005	Laois Education Centre	19	171
Voice Care for Teachers	04-10-2005	Laois Education Centre	15	30
Screening for Special Needs	11-10-2005	Laois Education Centre	32	160
All the Worlds a School	13-10-2005	Laois Education Centre	12	24
All the Worlds a School (2)	10-11-2005	Laois Education Centre	13	26
Primary Music	12-11-2005	Laois	16	80

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Workshop		Education Centre		
TOTAL			599	6130

SUMMER COURSES PROGRAMME 2005

COURSE TITLE	DATES	VENUE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
Augmentative Communication	04-07-2005 – 09-07-2005	Laois Education Centre	18	360
Circle Time	04-07-2005 – 09-07-2005	Laois Education Centre	23	460
All Into Music	04-07-2005 – 09-07-2005	Laois Education Centre	23	460
Primary Science	04-07-2005 – 09-07-2005	Laois Education Centre	25	500
Inclusive Special Education (with Athlone Ed. Centre)	04-07-2005 – 09-07-2005	Athlone Education Centre	4	80
TOTAL			93	1860

PROGRAMMES / PROJECTS 2005

COURSE TITLE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
Write A Book	26 teachers from 16 schools	570 entries
Co-operation is Cool	15 attended launch 6 attended training	42
An Leabhar Mór	13 attended information evening	26
Multiple Intelligences	8 participants in group	54
Committee Skills	12 schools are participating	

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Wood of Life Pilot Project	10 schools participated	
Meet the Poet	20 Classes participated	950 pupils
Solfa Science	120 attended launch	240
Faces of Zimbabwe – Photographic exhibition	17 attended	34
All The World’s a School – Eamonn O’Murchú	12	24
All The World’s a School – John Quinn	13	26
Total	272 participants	446

PRIMARY CURRICULUM

DATES	SUBJECT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
January – June	Music	145	828	4140
March – April	PE	70	340	1700
March – November	Learning Support Guidelines	104	496	2480
October – December	History	107	646	3230
TOTAL		426	2310	11550

SECOND LEVEL SUPPORT SERVICE INSERVICE TRAINING

DATES	SUBJECT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS

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January (3 days)	History	37	51	306
September (3 days)	History	39	50	300
February (3 days)	Geography	39	52	318
October (3 days)	Geography	38	51	323
17 th November	Leaving Cert Home Economics		15	30
January (3 days)	Junior Certificate Science	33	43	165
October (3 days)	Junior Certificate Science	21	30	105
17 th November 05	Home Economics	9	15	30
24 th November 05	Leaving Certificate French		35	70
1 st December 05	French – Whole School Evaluation		50	100
Total		216	392	1747

60 HOUR CERTIFICATE COURSE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS CICE

DATES	TUTOR	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
August 04 – February 05	Moira Proctor, Louise Grogan, Anita Dillon, Carthy Minnock, Joan White & Dinah Kingsley	24	1440
August 05 – February 06		24	1440
TOTAL		48	2880

CUIDITHEOIR SERVICE

Dates	Subjects	No. of Participating Schools
04-05	English, Gaeilge, Maths, Science, SPHE, Visual Arts, Learning Support and Music	291
05-06	As above	81
Total		372

CUIDITHEOIR DROP-IN-SESSIONS

Dates	Subject	Tutor
12 th April	English	Eimear O'Meara
12 th April	Maths	Carmel Burns
12 th April	Science	Niamh Mannion
12 th April	Gaeilge	Mairin Ni Chartuir

RELATIONSHIP AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

DATES	SUBJECT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
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26th January 2005	Policy Committee	14	36	72
2nd February 2005	Policy Committee	7	25	50
9th February 2005	Policy Committee	7	16	32
10th May 2005	Parents Information	9	13	26
16th November 2005	Teacher Training Evening	11	17	34
23rd November 2005	Teacher Training Evening	13	22	44
30th November 2005	Teacher Training Evening	11	18	36
Total		72	147	294

DISCOVER PRIMARY SCIENCE

DATES	SUBJECT	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	CONTACT HOURS
10th February 2005	Induction Day	11	11	55
19th October 2005	Induction Day	12	12	60
Total		23	23	115

ICT COURSES

Attendance	2005
Primary (Male Teachers)	32
Primary (Female Teachers)	256
Post Primary (Male Teachers)	55
Post Primary (Female Teachers)	80
Total Participants	423
Total contact Hours	4753.5

SUMMARY OF COURSES / PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES FOR 2006-02-23

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTACT HOURS
4,679	29,775

THIS CONCLUDES THE SUMMARY OF COURSES/PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES ORGANISED THROUGH LAOIS EDUCATION CENTRE FOR THE YEAR 2005.

THE INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES IS OUR COURSES / PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES IN MORE DETAILS.

SECOND LEVEL SUPPORT SERVICE

HISTORY

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Laois Education Centre is working in co-operation with Monaghan Education Centre to facilitate this in-service and all financial returns have been made to them.

- Regional Development Officer is Ger O'Sullivan

Year 2 – Phase 3						
DATE	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
January '05 x 3 days	37	51	19	32	18	306

Year 2 Phase 4						
DATE	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	DURATIO N	CONTACT HOURS
September '05 x 3 days	39	50	16	34	18	300

Year 2 – Phase 5 will commence in March 2006 with Ger O'Sullivan

GEOGRAPHY

Laois Education Centre is working in co-operation with Monaghan Education Centre to facilitate this in-service and all financial returns have been made to them.

- Regional Development Officer is Ute Duane

Year 2 – Phase 3						
DATE	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	DURATIO N	CONTACT HOUR
February '05 x 3 days	39	52	22	30	18	318

Year 3 – Phase 4						
DATE	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
October '05 x days	38	51	19	32	18	323

Year 3 – Phase 5 will commence in February 2006 with Ute Duane

PRIMARY CURRICULUM SUPPORT PROGRAMME

MUSIC – DAY 1

The first 1-Day Seminar covered:

- *Overview of the curriculum*

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- *Approaches and methodologies for teaching Music*
- MUSIC – DAY 2**

The second 1-Day Seminar covered:

- *The three strands of the music curriculum*
- *Approaches and methodologies for teaching Music*

This service continued in January and was completed in June '05

SUBJECT	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	CONTACT HOURS
Music 1 & 2	145	828	141	687	4140

PE- DAY 1

The first 1-Day Seminar covered:

- Overview of the curriculum
- The strands Aquatics, Games and Outdoor Adventure
- School and classroom planning

This service continued in March & April '05

SUBJECT	NO SCHOOLS	NO OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	CONTACT HOURS
PE	70	340	61	279	1700

CUIDITHEOIR SERVICE

This support was offered to all primary schools last year and was offered in the following subjects:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>'04/'05</i>	<i>'05/'06</i>
English	42	11
Gaeilge	41	8
Maths	32	12
Science	47	15
SPHE	47	12
Visual Arts	34	3
Learning Support	48	9
Music		19

CUIDITHEOIR DROP-IN SESSIONS

The following subjects were covered in 2005 through a drop-in clinic:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Tutor</i>
✓ English	12 th April '05	Eimear O'Meara
✓ Maths	12 th April '05	Carmel Burns
✓ Science	12 th April '05	Niamh Mannion
✓ Gaeilge	12 th April '05	Mairin Ni Chartuir

LEARNING SUPPORT

The Learning-Support Guidelines were published and issued to schools in 2001. To date, a 1-day Information Seminar on the guidelines has been facilitated for Principals, Learning-Support and Resource Teachers. Also, a 2-day Seminar has been facilitated for Learning-Support and Resource Teachers which concentrated on Screening, Diagnostic Testing,

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Collaboration and the IPLPs (Individual Profile and Programme Planning). Following this, schools designated as disadvantaged and school with 16+ teachers were prioritised for whole-staff seminars. The next phase of seminar support is concentrating on the remaining number of schools. These seminars were delivered from March – November '05.

SUBJECT	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	CONTACT HOURS
Learning Support	104	496	86	410	2480

HISTORY – PRIMARY LEVEL

We are currently making arrangements for the delivery of the Primary Curriculum Support Programme, 2005 – 2006, for history which will be a one-day seminar for all members of teaching staffs. This in-service commenced in October and is on-going.

The 1-Day Seminar will cover

- Approaches and methodologies for teaching History
- Resource materials for History
- School and classroom planning for History

SUBJECT	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF TEACHERS	MALE	FEMALE	CONTACT HOURS
History	107	646	101	545	3230

RELATIONSHIP AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Support for the implementation of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) has been offered to schools jointly by the RSE office and the Primary Curriculum Support Programme (PCSP) through the Education Centres. Our tutor is Miriam Geaney.

This support was given in the form of

- (a) Policy Committee Evening Meetings
- (b) Parent Information Evenings *and*
- (c) Teacher Training

20 POLICY COMMITTEE EVENING MEETINGS

DATE	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF ATTENDEES	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
26 th Jan '05	14	36	10	26	2	72
2 nd Feb '05	7	25	6	19	2	50
9 th Feb '05	7	16	3	13	2	32

(B) PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

DATE	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF ATTENDEES	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
10 th May '05	9	13	2	11	2	26

© TEACHER TRAINING EVENINGS

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DATE	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF ATTENDEES	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
16 th Nov '05	11	17		17	2	34
23 rd Nov '05	13	22		22	2	44
30 th Nov '05	11	18		18	2	36

Miriam made a number of school visits throughout the year also.

DISCOVER PRIMARY SCIENCE

Teacher Induction Day

DATE	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF ATTENDEES	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
10 th Feb '05	11	11	2	8	5	55
19 th Oct '05	12	12	1	11	5	60

Tutor for first induction day on the 10th Feb was Niamh Mannion.

Tutor for second induction day on the 19th Oct was Dalach Carey.

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS 60 HOUR CERTIFICATE COURSE
GROUP 2 AND 3

DATE	NO OF SCHOOLS	NO OF ATTENDEES	MALE	FEMALE	DURATION	CONTACT HOURS
Aug '04 – Feb '05	20	24		24	60	1440
Aug '05 – Feb '06	19	24		24	60	1440

The Church of Ireland College of Education is offering an outreach Certificate programme for Special Needs Assistants working in Mainstream Primary and Post-Primary schools and Special Schools in Laois Education Centre. This course is being run in co-operation with the In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education and Science. Course participants will be provided with the opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute effectively to the support of pupils with special educational needs. To this end the course content has been approved by the In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education and Science.

Included in the course content for the Certificate course are:

- concepts and theories of SEN, holistic care of students with SEN
- legislation and policies, health and safety, child protection
- record keeping and confidentiality
- development of collaborative skills
- students with specific needs, categories of learning disability
- language and communication
- promoting independence
- understanding and supporting the student with Special Educational Needs
- enabling access to the curriculum
- the role of the SNA in relation the transition from primary to second level

Course Co-ordinator: Moira Proctor

Tutors: Dinah Kingsley, Joan White, Anita Dillion, Carthy Minnock, Louise Grogan

SUMMER COURSES 2005

PRIMARY SCIENCE

- This series of workshops was designed to introduce teachers to a range of science topics and to facilitate their working scientifically.

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- All sessions were of a hands on practical nature. A short introductory lecture preceded each session. Emphasis was placed on ‘Working scientifically’ and doing scientific investigation.

Content included:

- Water and Light
- Electricity 1 and 2
- Scientific Investigations
- Designing and making living things

Dates: Monday 4th – Friday 8th July 2005

Venue: Laois Education Centre

Facilitator: Sean Byrne, NT., INTO Primary Science Designer and Trainer

Attendance	
Primary Female	0
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	24
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	25
Contact Hours	480

AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

All participants were enabled to:

- Carry out Lámh signs
- Use 500 Lámh signs
- Teach Lámh signs effectively to students
- Increase awareness of the importance of effective communication
- Plan for individual needs

Dates: Monday 11th – Friday 15th July 2005

Venue: Laois Education Centre

Facilitators: Marie Ryan and Patricia O’Connor, Lámh Tutors

Attendance	
Primary Female	18
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	18
Contact Hours	360

ALL ABOARD FOR MUSIC

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The aim of this course was to familiarise teachers with the aims, objectives and methodologies of the Music Curriculum and to provide teachers with practical experience in music making which can be adapted for individual classes.

The course content included: Singing Fun; Movement and Music; Approaches to composition; Planning for music; Listening and Responding; Activities for all classes; and drumming workshops and making music from re-cycled instruments

Dates: Monday 4th – Friday 8th July 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitator: Fuaim Facilitators

Attendance	
Primary Female	23
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	23
Contact Hours	460

PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR THROUGH THE CIRCLE TIME MODEL

The aim of this course was to promote positive behaviour; to develop confidence and self esteem; to develop concentration and listening skills and to develop good communication skills among children.

Dates: Monday 4th – Friday 8th July 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitator: Shirley Mahon

Attendance	
Primary Female	22
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	23
Contact Hours	460

INCLUSIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION: BEST PRACTICES

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The aims of this course were to train teachers who have a responsibility for Special Educational Needs on *Best Practices in Inclusive Education* for pupils with difficulties in Literacy, Numeric and Behavioural Management and to develop *Action Plans* to implement skills gained from workshops into her/his teaching methods, during 2005-06 academic year. Participants were also trained to work with other local teachers in the area as Facilitators.

This course was run in partnership with Athlone Education Centre.

Attendance	
Primary Female	4
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	0
Contact Hours	80

LOCAL COURSES 2005

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOUR IN THE CLASSROOM

These evening sessions have been designed to focus on the classroom context and specifically on the kinds of behaviour that arise within that context which can often be challenging for you as a teacher and which you often are required to challenge in order to bring about a positive result!

The content of this course included:

- Identifying the kinds of challenging behaviours that arise within your experience within the classroom
- Re-view and re-visit them from fresh perspectives
- Design and practice methods of tapping into the 'positive' intention of that behaviour in the moment, handling and 'turning around' the challenge into a positive outcome for all

Dates: 24th February, 3rd March and 10th March 2005

Attendance	
Primary Female	12
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	3
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	16
Contact Hours	80

HARD WIRING DIFFERENCES IN THE DYSLEXIC BRAIN

T.E.S.T. – D

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T.E.S.T. – D (Trinity Early Screening Test for Dyslexia) is a study trying to identify the predictors of dyslexia in 4 – 6 year old primary school children.

This seminar held in association with ILSA Group aimed to empower the class teacher in screening young school goers with a view to putting compensatory teaching into practice as early as possible

Date: 7th April 2005
Venue: Montague Hotel, Emo, Portlaoise
Facilitator: Pauline Coogan, NT, Degree in Psychology and Neurology Linguistics

Attendance	
Primary Female	53
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	3
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	56
Contact Hours	140

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH A.D.H.D

Anita Prunty, well known for her expertise in the area of special needs will present this work-shop on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to Primary and Post Primary Teachers.

Date: Monday 26th and 28th September 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Crank House, Banagher
Facilitator: Anita Prunty, St Patarick's College, Drumcondra.

Attendance	
Primary Female	30
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	7
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	37
Contact Hours	74

TEACHER AND THE LAW

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This course aims to provide insights into the implementations of the following Acts for Principals and Teachers

Content included:

- Teaching Council Act
- Ombudsman for Children Act
- Education Welfare Act
- A brief introduction to two new acts; Child Protection Act and Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004

Dates: 28th September, 5th October, 11th and 18th October 2005

Venue: Laois Education Centre

Times: 7.00 – 10.00

Facilitator: Oliver Mahon, Barrister-at-Law

Attendance	
Primary Female	12
Primary Male	3
Post Primary Female	3
Post Primary Male	1
Other	0
Total Participants	19
Contact Hours	171

TAKING CARE OF YOUR VOICE

Olivia provided a taster session on voice care, looking at how a teacher can project the most valuable resource they have at their disposal. Participants were introduced to insights and exercises that will enable them to project their voice more effectively without strain, and make a greater impact in the classroom.

Attendance	
Primary Female	10
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	3
Post Primary Male	2
Other	0
Total Participants	15
Contact Hours	30

MEET THE POET

**Laois Education Centre
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In association with Laois LEADER and Laois Education Supplies, 4 poets from 'Something beginning with P' visited Dunamais Theatre to talk to approximately 950 pupils from a number of schools. This was an ideal opportunity for children to meet with the Poets, listen to their work and understand their methods.

Attendance	
Primary Female	
Primary Male	
Post Primary Female	
Post Primary Male	
Other	950 Pupils
Total Participants	20 Teachers
Contact Hours	

**TRAINING DAY ON SCREENING
WITH EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES**

This one day training was suitable for Primary School Teachers, Principals, Class Teachers, Learning Support and Special Education Teachers.

Training included:

- An introduction to the continuum of assessment
- An outline of the principles of assessment
- Introduction / administration of the tests to be used
- Workshop on interpretation, coding and recording of results
- Outline of a framework for intervention
- An exploration of curriculum differentiation for SEN

Date: 11th October 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitator: Mary Peelo, NEPS

Attendance	
Primary Female	31
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	
Total Participants	32
Contact Hours	160

PRIMARY MUSIC WORKSHOP

**Laois Education Centre
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The focus of this course was on Music Literacy through songs, in particular, strengthening the teachers' confidence with music literacy, and demonstrating methods that teachers can use in the classroom, using three strands of the music curriculum: Listening and Responding; Performing and Composition. The tutors are experienced musicians and teachers.

Date: 12th November 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitators: Muireann Joy and Enid Conaghan, CNC, Assoc. of Irish Choirs

Attendance	
Primary Female	11
Primary Male	5
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	16
Contact Hours	80

PRIMARY SCIENCE WORKSHOPS

These practical workshops were designed to equip teachers with the skill and confidence to enable the children in your class to investigate and experiment with magnetism and electricity with the strand of Energy and Forces. Both the areas of working scientifically and designing and making were explored on each night. The activities would best suit 8-12 year olds but some are also suitable for junior classes.

Dates: 5th April and 12th April 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitator: Niamh Mannion

Attendance	
Primary Female	15
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	16
Contact Hours	80

LEAVING CERTIFICATE HIGHER LEVEL FRENCH WRITTEN EXAM

**Laois Education Centre
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“From Marking Scheme to Classroom Practice”

The aim of this course was to:

- Introduce participants to the marking scheme for leaving certificate higher level French exam 2005
- Practical recommendations for teachers and students arising from the marking
- Some practical application of the marking scheme to exemplars of production Ecrite

Date: Thursday 24th November 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitator: Joe Dennehy, Chief Advising Examiner,
Leaving Certificate Higher Level French
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Attendance	
Primary Female	0
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	33
Post Primary Male	2
Other	0
Total Participants	35
Contact Hours	70

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION FRENCH

Laois Education Centre in partnership with Birr French Teachers Association organised this seminar to assist French Teachers in drawing up plans etc. in accordance with the Department of Education & Science Guidelines and addressed any queries they might have.

Date: Thursday 1st December 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Facilitator: Bernard Cashman, Teacher of French, Knockbeg College, Carlow
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Attendance	
Primary Female	0
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	47
Post Primary Male	3
Other	0
Total Participants	50
Contact Hours	100

PROJECTS

**Laois Education Centre
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ALL THE WORLD'S A SCHOOL

Eamonn O Murchú, Teacher Writer and Photographer.

Eamonn gave a multimedia presentation on 'The Master' Brian McMahon and the North Kerry writers.

Venue: Laois Education Centre
Date: Thursday 13th October 2005
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Attendance	
Primary Female	4
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	1
Other	7
Total Participants	12
Contact Hours	24

John Quinn, Teacher Author and Broadcaster

John gave a presentation on 'My Work, Life and Times.

Date: Thursday 10th November 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Attendance	
Primary Female	2
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	
Other	10
Total Participants	13
Contact Hours	26

FACES OF EMBAKWE, ZIMBABWE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

**Laois Education Centre
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Eamonn o Murchú from Coláiste Mhuire, Marino, spent the summer months working in the missions of Embakwe, South Western Zimbabwe. In his collection of photographs Eamonn has endeavored to capture the faces of Embakwe – faces of compassion, of welcome of stress and exhaustion, of pain and grief, of celebration and prayer and of hope and love.

The exhibition was an invitation from the people of Embakwe, from a suffering people to walk with them, to support them, to believe in them, and to reveal to them their own giftedness. In doing so we may discover what is meaningful in our lives.

The exhibition was on view in the centre for the month of October and was viewed by teachers, pupils and the general public.

Photographer: Eamonn O Murchú
Date: Thursday 6th October 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Attendance	
Primary Female	2
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	3
Post Primary Male	1
Other	11
Total Participants	17
Contact Hours	34

SOLFA SCIENCE

Launch of Schools Pack

By studying the aims and objectives of the revised Irish Science Curriculum, Solfa Science has created lyrics which arouse children' curiosity in and enhance their understanding of simple and more complex scientific ideas and processes. The strength of Solfa Science is that it encompasses different learning styles: Aural, Oral and Kinasthetic.

Date: 6th October 2005
Venue: Parish Centre, Portlaoise
Facilitators/
Designers: Sinead Slattery, Ann Conroy-Bergin and Caroline Heffernan

CO-OPERATION IS COOL 2005/2006

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This project is run in association with Glanbia and Laois LEADER and open to both Primary and Post Primary schools.

The aim of this project is to promote awareness of co-operation and how it works around us in the 21st century aided by modern technology. Projects are accepted from any class or groups of classes in Primary and Post Primary schools.

Launch

Date: Thursday 20th October 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm
Speakers: Dominic McEvoy, NCTE,
Liam Hyland, Guest speaker
Sean Hearn, Glanbia
Tony Mahon, Laois Education Centre

Attendance	
Primary Female	5
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	3
Other	6
Total Participants	15
Contact Hours	30

Training Seminar

Date: Tuesday 6th December 2005
Venue: Laois Education Centre
Time: 7.30 -9.30
Facilitator: Paddy Bates

Attendance	
Primary Female	3
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	2
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	6
Contact Hours	12

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES SUPPORT GROUP

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A support group has been set up with a view to implement Multiple Intelligences in both Primary and Post Primary Classrooms.

This group met on six occasions in Laois Education Centre:

Dates: 22nd September, 27th October, 10th November and 30th November,
7th December and 14th December 2005

Times: 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm and 7.30pm – 9.30 pm

Number in Group and Contact Hours	
Primary Female	5
Primary Male	0
Post Primary Female	2
Post Primary Male	1
Other	0
Total Participants	8 in the group
Contact Hours	54

AN LEABHAR MÓR – THE GREAT BOOK OF GAELIC

This project is run in partnership with Arts Office, Laois County Council and Gaelic Arts Agency, Scotland. Schools participating in this project have the option to submit their work as part of the ‘Write a Book’ project.

The information evening outlined:

- Resources available to teachers and pupils in poetry, songs, art and calligraphy
- A CDROM, DVD and art was available to teachers on the night

Date: Tuesday 4th October 2005

Venue: Laois Education Centre

Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Facilitator: Kevin Anderson, Gaelic Arts Agency, Scotland

Number in Group and Contact Hours	
Primary Female	12
Primary Male	1
Post Primary Female	0
Post Primary Male	0
Other	0
Total Participants	13
Contact Hours	26

‘OUR AGENDA’ COMMITTEE SKILLS PILOT PROJECT FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**Laois Education Centre
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This pilot project is run in association with Laois LEADER who have contracted Macra na Feirme to deliver the programme. Its aim is to provide pupils with the skills necessary to develop and run effective committees, allowing them the opportunities to enhance their community whilst enjoying themselves and making friends for life.

Twelve schools in Laois are participating in this pilot project.

WRITE-A-BOOK PROJECT 2004-2005

570 entries were received in March 2005 from 16 schools and 26 teachers. Merit awards of book tokens were given to one entry from each class, and also to one entry from each class pupil with learning difficulties. The Gaelscoil, Phortlaoise also participated for the first time with books written in Irish. All entries received certificates, and those highly commended received pens. At the Awards Ceremony on May 13th 2004, Don Conroy, artist, author and RTE personality, presented the awards in the Montague Hotel, Portlaoise.

Thank you to all the students who participated in the project and to those who supported them and to the people who took time to read the books.

Participating Schools	Teachers
Abbeyleix South NS	S. Rowan and R. Wallace
Ballingar NS	D. O Connor and M. Dooley
Ballyadams, Athy	D. Rowan and M. Mullooly
Ballinakill NS	B. Gowing
Portarlinton GNS	M. Fenlon
Camross NS	M. McCarthy, T.Horan, B.Cordial & R.Kennan
St Joseph's GNS, Mountmellick	J. Hyland, N. Campion and C. Nolan
Borris in Ossory GNS	K. Bergin
Geashill NS	M.Finlay
Gaelscoil, Phortlaoise	S. Ui Chuinn and C. Clancy
Lismacken NS	B. Ryan
St. Brendan's, Birr	N.Crofton
Shinrone NS	J. Cleary
Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix	A.Brennan
Scoil Mhuire, Cloneygowan	B Walsh and M Fox
St Mary's, Templemore	O Roe

ICT REPORT 2005

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NATIONAL/LOCAL ICT POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR 2005

The primary role of the ICT Advisory Service in the Education Centre is to manage and support the delivery of the NCTE's implementation plan at local and regional level and to assist in meeting the operational objectives of the NCTE by providing ICT supports to schools in the Laois Education Centre catchment area. With this in mind and in keeping with the main objectives as outlined in the ICT Advisor Workplan for 2005, the ICT Advisory Service focussed on the following

- Providing local schools with a range of ICT advice and supports.
- Helping schools with ICT planning / integration.
- Helping schools to gain an understanding and appreciation of the Schools Networking Programme
- Facilitating schools in their efforts to come to terms with the Schools' Broadband Programme and in particular with **Internet safety planning**.
- Organising and running an appropriate suite of ICT courses to suit local needs.
- Facilitating schools already involved in local and/or regional/national projects.
- Facilitating schools involved in new projects such as the Film in Schools (Fís) Project..
- Targeting Schools that may be described as non or late adopters where ICT is concerned, and, when necessary and possible, visiting these schools and encouraging them to participate in innovative projects and/or professional development of the staff.
- Providing the NCTE with the necessary returns, reports and feedback on a range of ICT activities and actions

In the workplan for 2005, seven key areas for attention were identified which have been reported on underneath:

1. Teacher Professional Development regarding ICT integration
2. Technology Integration Priority Actions with particular reference to the DES Initiatives regarding Schools Networks and the introduction of Broadband Technologies
3. Scoilnet and including Internet Resources, paying particular attention to Internet Safety
4. Digital Content
5. ICT and Special Educational Needs
6. ICT Innovative Projects
7. School Visits

1. TEACHER ICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During the year the ICT Advisory Service continued to provide a suite of ICT Courses many of which were customized to individual or group needs. These courses were offered as whole-school activities and/or centre-based or outreach centre based with content tailored to suit the participants. Term courses were advertised at the beginning of the Autumn and Spring terms whereas summer courses were advertised in May. Also courses were promoted during school visits.

Following is an indication of the type of courses offered:

- Prescribed Courses such as Internet and Email and Creating a School Website
- Modular courses, using a mix and match of content/materials from existing programmes

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- Professional development courses in a whole-school context, where the provision was tailored to target topics that have been determined by the school in consultation with the ICT Advisor and tutor

The priority provision of courses for 2005 on the basis of identified needs were in the following areas.

1. Using digital media in schools
2. Web design and development for learning
3. The Internet and email for learning
4. Using ICT to support the Curriculum
5. School networking course
6. ICT and special needs courses
7. Film Making

Teacher participation in these courses has continued to remain high and feedback has generally been very positive. During the year, we ran 36 courses and support groups in areas such as Laois Education Centre, Sacred Heart School Tullamore, Scoil Mhuire Tullamore, Sacred Heart School Portlaoise, Mountmellick Development Association, Girls Primary School Birr, Colaiste Choilm Tullamore and Oaklands Community College Edenderry.

Attendance	2005
Primary (Male Teachers)	32
Primary (Female Teachers)	256
Post Primary (Male Teachers)	55
Post Primary (Female Teachers)	80
Total Participants	423
Total contact Hours	4753.5

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LIST OF ICT COURSES			2005
	Course Code	VENUE	COURSE TITLE
1	05LS134	Laois Education Centre	Web Site Design Support
2	05LS135	Laois Education Centre	Tutor Support
3	05LS136	Mountmellick Girls NS	Technology Workshop
4	05LS137	Mountmellick Girls NS Group 2	Technology Workshop
5	05LS138	Laois Education Centre	Co-operation is Cool Support night
6	05LS139	Laois Education Centre	Website Development for Learning
7	05LS141	Sacred Heart School Tullamore	Digital Cameras & Paintshop Pro
8	05LS142	Scoil Mhuire Kilcruddin	ICT & Geography Course
9	05LS143	Laois Education Centre	Introduction to Network Management
10	05LS145	Laois Education Centre	Empowering Minds Course (Lego)
11	05LS149	Laois Education Centre	Fis Support
12	05LS150	Laois Education Centre	Fis Support
13	05LS151	Laois Education Centre	Network Management Support
14	05LS152	ICT & Guidance	ICT & Guidance
15	05LS153	Laois Education Centre	Introduction to Film Making
16	05LS154	Laois Education Centre	Digital Cameras & Paintshop Pro
17	05LS155	Sacred Heart School Tullamore	Internet & e-mail
18	05LS157	Mountmellick	Using Microsoft Word Publisher, Powerpoint
19	05LS160	Laois Education Centre	Fis Support
20	05LS161	Mercy Primary School Birr	ICT a Curriculum based Course
21	05LS162	Scoil Mhuire Kilcruddin	ICT a Curriculum based Course
22	05LS163	Laois Education Centre	Website Support
23	05LS164	Laois Education Centre	Summer Tutor Support Workshop
24	05LS165	Sacred Heart School Tullamore	Website Design & Development for learning
25	05LS167	Laois Education Centre	Effective Use of ICT in the Classroom
26	05LS169	Sacred Heart School Tullamore	Digital Cameras & Photo Editing for classroom use
27	05LS170	Scoil Mhuire Kilcruddin	ICT & Special Needs
28	05LS171	Laois Education Centre	Internet & e-mail
29	05LS172	Laois Education Centre	Empowering Minds Course (Lego)
30	05LS176	Colaiste Choilm Tullamore	Introduction to IT
31	05LS177	Heywood Community College	Powerpoint
32	05LS178	Our Ladys SS Templemore	Introduction to IT
33	05LS179	Laois Education Centre	Make IT Secure Workshop
34	05LS180	Laois Education Centre	Fis Support Day
35	05LS181	Laois Education Centre	Using ICT as a Pedagogical Support
36	05LS182	Laois Education Centre	Fis Support

2. TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION INITIATIVE - PROVISION OF INTERNET ACCESS AND BROADBAND SUPPORT

It was a year of major technology infrastructural change for many schools as most received grants to install a network solution in schools to enable them make maximum use of the Government Broadband Internet Initiative. As a result there were many queries both telephone and email in addition to requests for school visits dealing mainly with school networks and broadband issues.

The ICT Advisory Service

- Provided schools with advice and support on network installations
- Provided schools with advice and support on the Government Broadband Initiative
- Provided schools with advice and support on internet security particularly the NCTE/Symantec Schools Agreement.
- Delivered one carry-over seminar for principals as part of the preparation for the installation of Broadband Internet and other network services in their schools, outlining DES/NCTE policy and implementation strategy on Broadband, Networking, Planning and Procurement, and Technical Support.
- Assisted schools in taking an integrated best practice technology infrastructural approach.

3. PROMOTION OF THE USE OF INTERNET RESOURCES INCLUDING SCOILNET

The ICT Advisory Service

- Organised support groups and training courses on the topics of the Internet and email, Scoilnet and school websites.
- Promoted the use of the Internet and particularly Scoilnet. During school visits
- Directed teachers to the NCTE website for information on ICT in Education during school visits.
- Communicated with schools the importance of School websites as educational resources and encouraged the development of individual schools websites.
- Supported schools in developing and maintaining schools websites.
- Emphasised the fact that every school must develop an **Acceptable Use Policy** in partnership with the relevant parties and offered templates of same to schools.
- Ran school in-house workshops on Internet Safety and AUPs.
- Promoted Internet Safety Awareness both formally during presentations on same and informally during School Visits.

Time allocated to the promotion of Internet Safety Awareness

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Venue	Target Group	Number attended	Time	
Bridge House Hotel Tullamore	Parents Association Gaelscoil an Eiscir Riada Tullmaore	25 parents	120 mins	50
Scoil Mhuire Tullamore	presentation during summer course	24 teachers	60 mins	24
Girls Primary Birr	presentation during summer course	22 teacers	60 mins	22
SHS Tullamore Mountmellick	presentation during summer course	15 teachers	60 mins	15
Development Association	presentation during summer course	12 teachers	60 mins	12
Laois Education Centre	presentation during summer course	22 teachers	60 mins	22
Laois Education Centre	presentation during summer course	14 teachers	60 mins	14
EMO Ns	General School Visit	7 teachers	30 mins	3.5
Kilehsin Ns Carlow	General School Visit	1 principal	60 mins	1
Gaelscoil Portlaoise	General School Visit	2 teachers	45 mins	1.5
Kilcormac VEC Scoil Mhuire	General School Visit	1 teacher	60 mins	1
Abbeyleix Scoil Mhuire	General School Visit	5 teachers	45 mins	3.75
Portlaoise	General School Visit	1 principal + 2 teachers	60 mins	3
Roscomroe NS	General School Visit	1 principal	45 mins	0.75
girls primary Roscrea	General School Visit	1 principal + 1 teacher	60 mins	2
Clough NS	General School Visit	1 principal	45 mins	0.75
Bracknagh NS	General School Visit	1 principal + 2 teachers	60 mins	3
Ballylinan NS	General School Visit	1 Principal	30 mins	0.5
Geashill NS	General School Visit	1 principal + 1 Teacher	60 mins	2
Timahoe NS	General School Visit	1 principal + 1 teacher	60 mins	2
Heywood CS	General School Visit	4 teachers	60 mins	4
Colaiste Choilm Tullamore	General School Visit	1 principal	45 mins	0.75
Carrig NS	General School Visit	4 teachers	30 mins	2
Borrisokane	General School Visit	1 principal + 1 teacher	60 mins	2
The Heath NS	General School Visit	principal	60 mins	1
Knockmay NS Sacred Heart	General School Visit	2 teachers	60 mins	2
Portlaoise	General Visit	1 principal + 2 teachers	45 mins	2.25
Ballinagar NS	General Visit	1 principal	30 mins	0.5
Ballacolla	General Visit	1 principal	15 mins	0.25
Clough NS	General Visit	1 principal	60 mins	1
Rathdowney NS	General Visit	1 principal +1 teacher	45 mins	1.5
Ballinamere NS	General Visit	1 principal + 1 teacher	60 mins	2
Killina Secondary School	General Visit	1 principal + 2 teachers	60 mins	3
Gaelscoi Tullamore	General Visit	1 principal + 1 teacher	60 mins	2
Timahoe NS	General Visit	1 principal + 1 teacher	30 mins	1
Total number of Contact Hours				209

4. DIGITAL CONTENT (ONLINE AND OFFLINE RESOURCES)

The software library in the Education Centre has been added to with contributions from the NCTE and a very significant donation of software and site license from 2Simple Software which caters particularly for pre and early school years.

Promoted the NCTE/Sun Microsystems Schools Agreement which offers a site licence for Star Office 7 to every school in our region.

Continued to advise schools on software licensing.

New software application programmes were evaluated and reported on by tutors in the Laois Education Centre region.

5. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND ICT

THE MAIN PRIORITY IN THE AREA OF SEN & ICT CONTINUED TO BE THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS. THIS WAS DONE FORMALLY DURING A TRAINING COURSE AND INFORMALLY DURING SCHOOL VISITS. THE ICT ADVISOR WORKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANN JACKSON FROM THE CENTRAL REMEDIAL CLINIC IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN THE REGION AND IT IS PROPOSED CONTINUE THIS APPROACH THIS YEAR.

6. ICT INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

The ICT Advisory service continued to promote and support the following local innovative projects which details of which have appeared on previous AGM Reports.

- **Projects previously reported on:**
 - **Pilot Project with local Post-Primary Schools and ECDL (in its third year)**
 - **Laptops Initiative (in its third year)**
 - **Kidsmart Project (in its third year)**
 - **Cooperation is Cool Project (in its third year)**
 - **Pilot Project involving Microsoft, Prodigy and the Education Centre (in its second year)**
 - **ICT – a whole school approach’ project in the Sacred Heart Primary School, Portlaoise (in its second year)**

- **New Projects**
 - **Joint Netd@ys Project with Athlone Education Centre**

We have just concluded a joint netdays project with Athlone Education Centre. This year again the theme was Dialogue between Cultures. Schools/classes/individuals were invited to submit a digital photograph or a series of digital photographs which succeeded in depicting their culture. There was a large response – 40 entries- and a very varied response many coming from the non-national communities. Congratulations to Sacred Heart Primary School Portlaoise on coming both second and third in this competition. In addition to the winning prizes of digital cameras, scanners and printers, a calendar for the year 2006 with the winning photographs has been printed. This calendar has been circulated to every school that had a winning entry.

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- **FÍS (Film in Schools) Project.**

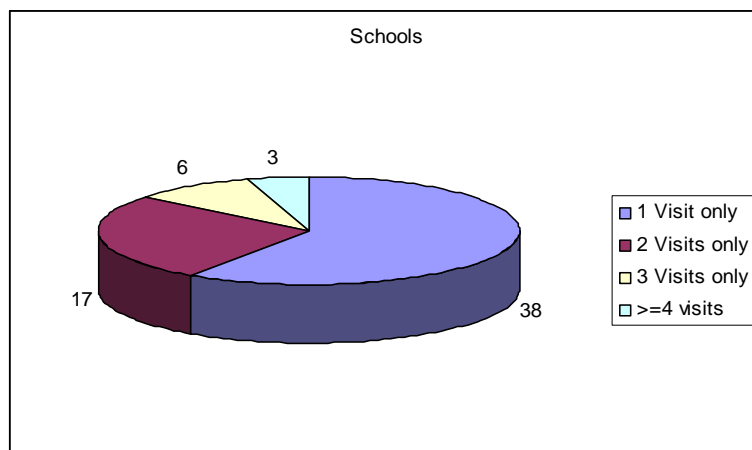
Five schools in the Laois Education Centre area were selected to take part in the FIS (Film In Schools)- programme which runs over 3 years- Ballyadams, Timahoe, Killadooley, Carrig and Sacred Heart Portlaoise. This project, which involves introducing the medium of film as a support to the Revised Primary School Curriculum is being run in conjunction with the NCTE and the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology. Each year the children are asked to make a film of maximum 10 minutes duration. Teachers were provided with training by the ICT Advisor at Laois Education Centre and further support was provided by means of support groups facilitated by people involved in the film world. Schools were supplied with digital camcorder, tripod, microphone and video editing equipment. Once the children were taught the basics of film making, it was then over to them to plan, shoot and edit a film.

Scripting, storyboarding, casting, acting, directing, operating the camera, lights, wardrobe, hair, makeup, props and sound effects were just some of the roles taken on by the children. The highlight for each of the schools involved was the screening of all the locally produced films at The Storm Cinema Portlaoise in June. All films were of an exceptionally high standard. Adjudication at that screening resulted in Timahoe's "Dangerous Dresses" and Ballyadam's "Polar Express" being selected to go forward to represent the Laois Education Centre region at National Screening which took place in October 2005 in the Helix, DCU, where awards were presented by Minister Mary Hannafin. The Ballyadams NS film 'Polar Express' was nominated for three categories, Best Choice of Music, Best Directed Film, but their endeavours were finally rewarded when they scooped the very prestigious award of 'High Achievement in Film Making (2nd overall)', for which they were presented with a commemorative plaque and an Apple G4 iBook. Scoil Mhuire Fatima's film 'Dangerous Dresses' was nominated for Best Use of Camera category and went on to win 'Best Production Design' award.

SCHOOL VISITS

2005 was a particularly busy year from the perspective of requests for school visits. Generally ICT Planning, Network Installations, Department Broadband Initiative, Subject-based ICT curricular supports and Internet Safety including School AUPs (Internet Acceptable Usage Policies) were the main areas of concern and discussion during these school visits. In all there were 105 visits, the breakdown of which is indicated in the following graph.

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Conclusion

Priority areas during the coming year like other years will continue to be the targeting of late to non- adopters and non-participating schools, developing an ICT culture within schools, sharing good practice and a continuing focus on the integration of ICTs in teaching and learning paying particular attention to the use of the Internet in the classroom in light of the advanced deployment of the Broadband initiative to schools. Also 2006 is being targeted as the 'Year of the School Website', so it is envisaged there will be an increase in the number of schools with websites during this year.

I would like to conclude by saying 'thank you' to the many people who have been supportive during the year particularly, the team of tutors who work tirelessly, the Board of Management and in particular the ICT sub-committee, all the staff at the centre, the Director Tony whose support and advise is invaluable as always and finally Catherine for her dedication, commitment and hard work .

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ICT COURSES 2004

Course Code	Course Title	Contact Hours
04LS097	Access in the Classroom	120
04LS099	Webdesign & Development for Learning Course	260
04LS100	Skills Enhancement Course	180
04LS101	Ict & Special Learning Support Course	100
04LS102	Word in the Classroom Course	150
04LS108	Internet & email for Learning	220
04LS115	IT Training Initiative Course	35
04LS137	Formatting your PC	130
04LS145	Support Group Workshop	32
04LS131	Introduction to Networking	160
04LS130	Introduction to IT	100
04LS127	Internet & e-mail Course	180
04LS111	Absolute Beginners	240
04LS103	User Scanners & Digital Cameras	520
04LS144	Internet & e-mail Course	400
04LS140	Intel Teach to the Future Course	200
04LS125	Multimedia Course	100
04LS124	Digital Cameras using a Photo Editing Package	160
04LS121	Microsoft Powerpoint in the Classroom	110
04LS118	Website Design for Learning	260
04LS143	ICT's in the Classroom	200
04LS113	ICT's in the Classroom	420
04LS142	ICT's in the Classroom	160
04LS133	Support Group	67.5
04LS132	Support Group	30
04LS129	IT in Subjects Specific	40
04LS122	Microsoft Word in the Classroom	80
Total		4654.5

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