

Research Alive: Improving access to research for teachers

Friday 10 May 2013: Findings from educational research are often lost in translation or too hard find. Yet, in a survey* carried out in January 2013, more than 4,000 teachers showed a real appetite to engage with the issue of how to use findings from research to help shape their practice.

This is the focus of *Research Alive*, a one-day conference on teachers and educational research which takes place tomorrow (Saturday 11 May) in Coláiste Bríde, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

Research Alive invites teachers, researchers and policymakers to explore how best to support teachers as researchers, reflecting on what happens in their classrooms and schools, using the work of researchers along with their own professional insights, to ask challenging questions and propose answers. As one respondent to the survey said, “It [research] is how we learn to be better teachers, and the children deserve no less than that from us.”

Speaking about the event, Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick, Deputy CEO, NCCA said, “This conference is a great opportunity for dialogue and action on how to translate research findings into useful information for teachers and learners. It capitalises on learning from other initiatives, like the ACTION website (<http://action.ncca.ie>) - a proven support for teacher inquiry, showing innovative practice in a range of classroom settings.”

Nuala Doherty, Director of the Centre for Effective Services said, “CES works with practitioners and policy makers to support the best use of research and evidence to improve outcomes for children. We are very pleased to collaborate in this event and look forward to being part of the conversations to make research alive for teachers.”

Teaching Council Director Tomás Ó Ruairc said, “We are delighted to be supporting this initiative for teachers. It goes to the heart of what they seek to do every day in schools – using professional judgement to maximise the impact of their work on the learning experience of their pupils, informed and supported by research that shows what works.

The Teaching Council is therefore delighted to announce that all registered teachers will be granted free access to the Education Source database hosted by EBSCO for a trial period of one year commencing on 1 September 2013. Further details will be available closer to this date. EBSCO are one of the world leaders in meeting the content needs of researchers.”

A live stream of the presentations from Professor Mark Morgan (TCD), Philippa Cordingley (CEO, Curee) and Davis College can be viewed on <http://www.ncca.ie/en/Conference/Research-Alive.html> from 11 am.

The event can also be followed on Twitter #researchalive. Follow @TeachingCouncil and @NCCA_ceo

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For further information:

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Note for editors:

*The survey was carried out by the Teaching Council in January 2013 on behalf of the *Research Alive* initiative. All registered teachers were invited to respond.