Post-Primary Teacher Survey





The Educational Research Centre, Drumcondra, Dublin, has been asked by the Department of Education and Skills to develop an evaluation framework for Teachers' Professional Learning (TPL). This survey is part of that project. Your school is one of 100 post-primary schools selected to take part. Collectively, the 280 schools provide a varied and representative picture of schools in Ireland.

The purpose of this survey is to gather information about teachers' views on TPL and its impact; their recent participation in professional learning activities; and their TPL needs in the area of student wellbeing. Some general questions about the school environment and community are asked. These will provide us with information which will help us to understand differences between teachers in different contexts.

The survey is intended to take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Some questions provide space for you to provide more detail on your answers, if you wish.

The responses to this survey will contribute to the development of a framework for the evaluation of TPL. Your school will receive a copy of the final report.

We greatly appreciate your participation in this survey. We need to hear the views and perspectives of as many registered teachers as possible, including those working full and part-time, in order to understand the different contexts in which school leaders and teachers work, and to enhance and develop policies to better support and evaluate TPL.

This study is conducted in compliance with the GDPR framework. Your school's roll number will be used to match survey data with publicly available school-level information such as DEIS status and enrolment size. Individual identifying information such as name or IP address are **not** gathered in this survey. Results of individual schools will **not** be published. School roll numbers will be permanently deleted from the survey dataset at the end of the project.

To allow us to process the data in good time, we would be grateful if you could submit your response by 1st May 2020.

If you work in more than one school and get this survey link more than once, you only need to respond once.

If you have any questions about this survey please contact **tpl@erc.ie**.

Many thanks for your participation.

School Information

1. Roll number of your school: *
Please ensure you choose the correct roll number.
Please choose ▼
2. Please type your school's phone number into the box below: *
This information is used to check and confirm the roll number.
3. What is/are your role(s) in the school? *
Tick all that apply.
School Principal
Deputy Principal
Assistant Principal I
Assistant Principal II
Subject Teacher
Special Class Teacher
Special Education Teacher (Formerly Learning Support/Resource Teacher)
Other (Please specify)

4. In general, how happy is the size? *	environment for students and t	teachers in your school, relative	e to other schools of the same			
Mark one choice in each row.						
	Happier	As happy	Less happy			
Students						
Teachers						
Teachers						

Teacher Information

5. Do you work full-time or part-time in the school? *
Full-time
Part-time
6. Which of the following best describes your employment status? *
Permanent
Contract of Indefinite Duration
Fixed term (Whole-time)
Fixed term (Part-time)
Substitute
7. When did you complete your initial teacher education? *
Before 1990
1990-1999
2000-2009
2010-2015
2016-2018
2019

8. By the end of the current school year, how many years will you have been teaching? *				
Exclude any long-term leave, career breaks etc.				
1 year, i.e. this is my first year teaching				
2-5 years				
6-10 years				
11-15 years				
16-20 years				
More than 20 years				
9. What year did you begin employment in your school?				
2019 - 2020 school year				
2018 - 2019 school year				
2017 - 2018 school year				
2016 - 2017 school year				
2015 - 2016 school year				
2014 - 2015 school year or earlier				
10. Which of the following best describes you? *				
Male				
Female				
Other (including non-binary, agender, gender-fluid)				

Prefer not to say
11. To which age group do you belong? *
Under 25
25 - 29
30 - 39
40 - 49
50 - 59
Over 60
12. Do you have any additional formal (certified) qualifications relating to your work as a teacher? *
Tick all that apply.
Cert/Diploma
M.Ed.
M.Sc.(Ed.)
M.A.(Ed.)
Ph.D./Ed.D.
Other (Please specify)

Mark one choice in each row.				
	Very	Fairly	Not very	Not at al
How satisfying is your job?			\bigcirc	
How stressful is your job?	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	\bigcirc	
How supported do you feel in your job?				

13. Please answer the following questions about your role as a teacher: *

Teacher Information

14. Which year levels do you teach? * Tick all that apply. First Year Second Year Third Year Fourth Year (Transition Year) Fifth Year Sixth Year Special Class Special Education Teacher (Formerly Learning Support/Resource Teacher) 15. Which subject(s) do you teach? * Tick all that apply. English Irish Mathematics (including Applied Mathematics) Modern Foreign Languages Ancient Languages (Ancient Greek, Latin) Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science) Geography

Home Economics	
History	
Technology Subjects (Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics, Wood Technology, DCG, Construction Studie	25)
Cultural Subjects (Religious Education, Classical Studies, Jewish Studies, Classics, Environmental Social Studies, Philosophy)	, Politics and Society,
Personal Subjects (CSPE, SPHE, Physical Education)	
Wellbeing	
Business Subjects (Accounting, Business Studies, Economics)	
Computer Science	
Artistic Subjects (Music, Art, Visual Art)	
Other (please specify)	
16. Do you currently teach one or more of the following subjects with a particular focus on wellbeing Tick all that apply.	on a weekly basis? *
SPHE	
CSPE	
Physical Education	
Wellbeing (i.e. timetabled curricular learning experiences in the Wellbeing programme)	
No - I do not teach any of these subjects	

17. During your most recent complete calendar week, how many minutes in total did you spend on (a) tasks related to student wellbeing and (b) teaching student wellbeing at your school? *

Please make sure you give your answer in <u>minutes</u>. For example, 3 hours per week is 180 minutes (3 x 60 minutes). If you have not spent any time on tasks related to student wellbeing or teaching student wellbeing in the last calendar week, enter '0'.

A 'complete' calendar week is one that was not shortened by breaks, public holidays, sick leave, etc.

	Total number of minutes
Tasks related to student wellbeing Include time spent on teaching, planning lessons, co-curricular activities (Active Schools Flag, Mindfulness minutes etc.), marking, collaborating with other teachers, participating in staff meetings, participating in professional development, and other work tasks. Also include tasks that took place during evenings, weekends, or other out-of-class hours.	
<u>Teaching</u> student wellbeing Including but not limited to teaching SPHE, CSPE, Physical Education, and Wellbeing. Include any teaching relating to student wellbeing across any subject/curriculum area.	

Thoughts on Teachers' Professional Learning (TPL) in General

For the purpose of this survey:

Teachers' Professional Learning' (TPL) is defined as all of the various types of continuing professional learning and development activities for teachers and school leaders which are funded, facilitated, accredited or otherwise supported by the Department, its support services or its agencies (including but not limited to NEPS, NCSE, PDST, JCT, NIPT, CSL, FESS, and the Education Centres). TPL does not include initial teacher education. TPL is continuous and ongoing and ranges from highly informal to structured and formal.

This section includes questions relating to your thoughts about TPL. Some questions ask about informal and self-directed TPL.

18. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: *

 $School\ based\ support\ including\ school\ visits\ from\ support\ service\ personnel$

Events - Presentations by facilitators, question and answer sessions, and/or panel discussions

Mark one choice in each row.

	Strongly agree	Moderately agree	Agree slightly more than disagree	Disagree slightly more than agree	Moderately disagree	Strongly disagree
Professional learning activities often help teachers to develop new teaching approaches						
If I did not have to, I would not attend professional learning activities						
Professional learning activities are worth the time they take						
I have been enriched by the professional learning activities in which I have participated						
Professional learning activities have not had much impact on my learning						
Professional learning activities have not had much impact on my teaching or professional practice						
Professional learning activities have not had much impact on my students' outcomes				\bigcirc		
19. Please select <u>up to five</u> of the following as your most preferred modes of TPL *						
You can select up to five options. If you want to chonew selection.	inge your select	ion, click again o	n an item that yo	u have selected to	de-select it and ti	hen make your

Events - Single day lectures or seminars
Events - Conferences and/or showcases
Workshops - Single day workshops
Workshops - Series of workshops over multiple days
Workshops - Evening workshops
Workshops - Residential workshops
Workshops - In-school colleague-led workshops
Working with others - Team teaching
Working with others - Mentoring/Coaching
Working with others - Professional learning communities
Working with others - Lesson study
Networking - Informal networking with colleagues
Networking - Formal networking with colleagues (e.g. clustering)
Research (e.g. action research project)
Resources online (e.g. webinars, e-zines, blogs, Twitter, Instagram etc.)
Reading academic journals/papers/reports
Learning through practice

21. How effective are the following forms of TPL in informing your <u>professional knowledge, competence,</u> and <u>skills</u> ? * Mark one choice in each row.							
	Highly effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Highly ineffective	Never experienced th type of TPL		
School based support including school visits from support service personnel	\bigcirc			\bigcirc			
Events - Presentations by facilitators, question and answer sessions, and/or panel discussions	\bigcirc						
Events - Single day lectures or seminars							
Events - Conferences and/or showcases							
Workshops - Single day workshops							
Workshops - Series of workshops over multiple days	\bigcirc						
Workshops - Evening workshops							
Workshops - Residential workshops							
Workshops - In-school colleague-led workshops	\bigcirc						
Working with others - Team teaching							
Working with others - Mentoring/coaching							
Working with others - Professional learning communities	\bigcirc						
Working with others - Lesson study							
Networking - Informal networking with colleagues							

20. Is there any other mode of TPL that we haven't listed that you prefer? If so, please tell us what and why:

22. How effective are the following forms of TPL in informing your $\underline{attitudes}$, \underline{values} , and $\underline{practice}$? *

Mark one choice in each row.

	Highly effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Highly ineffective	Never experienced this type of TPL
School based support including school visits from support service personnel		\bigcirc			
Events - Presentations by facilitators, question and answer sessions, and/or panel discussions					
Events - Single day lectures or seminars					
Events - Conferences and/or showcases					
Workshops - Single day workshops					
Workshops - Series of workshops over multiple days		\bigcirc			\bigcirc
Workshops - Evening workshops					
Workshops - Residential workshops					
Workshops - In-school colleague-led workshops					
Working with others - Team teaching					
Working with others - Mentoring/coaching					
Working with others - Professional learning communities	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		\bigcirc	\bigcirc

Working with others - Lesson study			
Networking - Informal networking with colleagues			
Networking - Formal networking with colleagues, e.g. clustering			
Research (e.g. action research project)			
Resources online (e.g. webinars, e-zines, blogs, Twitter, Instagram etc.)			
Reading academic journals/papers/reports			
Learning through practice			

23a. In your opinion, how useful is it to evaluate the impact of TPL against the following criteria? *

Mark one choice in each row.

In the following questions, we use the term 'participant' for the teacher/school leader participating in the TPL.

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not very useful	Not useful at all
Participant satisfaction with TPL experience				
Participant views, attitudes, and values				
Participant knowledge, skills, and competence				
Changes in participant practice				
Changes at whole school level				
Student learning outcomes				
Value for money				
Relevance to classroom practice				
Alignment to the curriculum		\bigcirc		

24. In your opinion, how useful are the	following instrum	ents in evaluating the in	npact of TPL? *	
Mark one choice in each row. In the following questions, we use the term 'par	ticipant' for the teache	er/school leader participating	in the TPL.	
	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not very useful	Not useful at all
Participant questionnaires/surveys				
Participant interviews				
Reflective learning logs and journals completed by participants (either online or paper)				\bigcirc
Classroom observation of participants				
Student learning outcome measures				
Interviews with students/student questionnaires				
Collection of documentary evidence (minutes/planning materials)				
Follow up emails from the service provider	\bigcirc		\bigcirc	\bigcirc
25a. Please describe the most effective You may wish to include the following informat			ation (i e lecture worksho	nn etc) or any other

25b. How did this TPL impact on your own professional practice? How did you know it had an impact?
25c. How did this TPL impact on the outcomes of your students? How did you know it had an impact?
25d. How did this TPL impact on practice and policy within the school? How did you know it had an impact?
25d. How did this TPE impact on practice and policy within the school: How did you know it had an impact:

TPL since September 2018

For the purpose of this survey we define Teachers' Professional Learning (TPL) as:

all of the various types of continuing professional learning and development activities for teachers and school leaders which are funded, facilitated, accredited or otherwise supported by the Department, its support services or its agencies (including but not limited to NEPS, NCSE, PDST, JCT, NIPT, CSL, FESS, and the Education Centres). TPL does not include initial teacher education. TPL is continuous and ongoing and ranges from highly informal to structured and formal.

This section includes questions about the TPL you have participated in since September 2018. Some questions ask about informal and self-directed TPL.

26. What factors determine decisions on TPL participation? * You can select multiple options. Changes to curriculum Changes to policy Teachers who had fewer TPL opportunities Development and promotion of teacher knowledge and skills Cost Availability of a substitute teacher or teacher cover Location of TPL Overall school plan/priorities Teacher's own interest Time of year, e.g. summer courses Time available inside of school hours Time available outside of school hours Other (Please specify)

27. Approximately how many days (one day is about 5 hours) did you spend on teachers' professional learning since September 2018? * Do not count undergraduate or postgraduate courses. Mark one choice on each row.

Professional learning activities							
	None	Up to half a	a 1-3 days	4-8 days	9-14 days	15 or more days	Prefer not t say
Relating to the Junior Cycle							
All other professional learning							
28. For the TPL that you have compl					d time (i.e. w	ere you pern	nitted to be
absent from classes) to undertake the	ne TPL that took	place <u>durin</u>	ng regular wo	rk hours? *			
N/A, I did not participate in any TP	L since September	2018					
29. For the TPL that took place <u>durin</u>	g work hours, w	as a substi	tute teacher	provided in	your absenc	e? *	
Yes			No				
N/A, I did not participate in any TP	L since September	2018					
30. Which of the following types of T	PL have you par	ticipated in	since Septen	nber 2018? *			
ou can select multiple options.							
N/A, I did not participate in any TP	L since September	· 2018					
External workshop (i.e. held away	from school premi	ises, e.g. in ar	n Education Cen	tre)			
External lecture or seminar							
In-school support (e.g. support fro	m a PDST facilitato	or, NEPS psych	nologist, or NCS	SE advisor)			
School-based workshop							

Webinar
Online course (e.g. approved online summer course)
Mentoring/coaching
Research (e.g. an action research project)
Formal networking with colleagues (e.g. clustering)
Team teaching
nat, in your opinion, was the main purpose of the TPL that you participated in since September 2018? *
N/A, I did not participate in any TPL since September 2018
Subject knowledge (content knowledge)
Knowledge about the teaching and learning of a particular subject (pedagogical knowledge)
Knowledge about teaching methods
Classroom management and organisation
Personal learning and development (e.g. professional development, teacher wellbeing)
Professional collaboration and support of colleagues
Working with parents
Planning for inclusion
School self evaluation and planning
Planning and preparation
Other (Please specify)

32. In your opinion, how much of an impact did the TPL you participated in since September 2018 have on your development as a teacher? *

Mark one choice in each row.

You may have noted an impact on your own learning, your use of new knowledge and skills, and/or student learning outcomes.

External workshop (i.e. held away from school premises, e.g. in an Education Centre) External lecture or seminar In-school support (e.g. support from a PDST facilitator, NEPS psychologist, or NCSE advisor) School based workshop Webinar				
In-school support (e.g. support from a PDST facilitator, NEPS psychologist, or NCSE advisor)			\bigcirc	
psychologist, or NCSE advisor) School based workshop		\bigcirc		
Webinar				
Online course (e.g. approved online summer course)				
Mentoring/coaching				
Research (e.g. an action research project)				
Formal networking with colleagues (e.g. clustering)				
Team teaching				
33. How do you know that these professional learning activities had this learning activities had this learning of this could include (but are not limited to) development of your skills, knowled, values, changes to your practice, organisational level changes within your school, improve	ge and competenc	ies, changes	to your attitude	es, beliefs and

34. Were the professional learning activities that you participated in evaluated by the facilitator? *
Choose only one option. Evaluation methods can include but are not limited to questionnaires, interviews, classroom observation etc.
Yes - all professional learning activities I participated in were evaluated
The majority of the professional learning activities I participated in <u>were</u> evaluated
The majority of the professional learning activities I participated in <u>were not</u> evaluated
No - all professional learning activities I participated in <u>were not</u> evaluated
I don't know whether the professional learning activities I participated in were evaluated or not
35a. Since September 2018, did you want to participate in more TPL than you actually did? *
✓ Yes
35b. If yes, which of the following reasons explain what prevented you from participating in more TPL than you did? *
You can select multiple options.
Limited/no availability of activities which suited my professional learning needs
Limited/no employer support (e.g. lack of encouragement or inability to get approved time off work)
Limited/no time during school hours
Limited/no time due to family responsibilities and/or other commitments
Limited/no information provided surrounding professional learning courses and when they were on
Professional learning activities were not available in a geographically accessible location
It would have cost too much to travel to the location of the professional learning activity
Suitable professional learning activities were held outside of school hours, and I did not believe that this was appropriate
No personal interest in professional development

Linguistic accessibility (e.g. not available through Irish)	
None of the above (i.e. nothing prevented me)	
Other (Please specify)	
36a. Was there anything which prevented you from integratin practice as a teacher? *	g what you learned at these TPL activities into your day-to-day
Yes	No
36b. If yes, what prevented you from integrating what you had day practice as a teacher? * You can select multiple options.	d learned at professional learning activities into your day-to-
Limited/no resources	
Financial issues	
Limited/no time	
Limited/no support from school management	
Limited/no understanding of what I had learned during the TPL	activity
Lack of sustained support from TPL provider	
None of the above (i.e. nothing prevented me)	
Other (Please specify)	
37. Thinking about your own role, what in your view works w	ell in terms of TPL?

. How in your vie	w does TPL fleed t	o be changed/in	iipioveu:		

Your Understanding of Student Wellbeing

For the purpose of this survey:

Wellbeing can be defined as being present when <u>a person realises their potential</u>, is <u>resilient</u> in dealing with the normal stresses of their life, takes care of <u>physical wellbeing</u> and has <u>a sense of purpose</u>, <u>connection and belonging to a wider community</u>. Wellbeing occurs on a continuum, it is a fluid way of being and <u>needs nurturing throughout life</u>. Although the definition of wellbeing is based on individuals, the present study recognises that <u>wellbeing</u> <u>is in part determined by the person's environments and interpersonal relationships</u> within those environments.

No, too soon to say Yes, a lot of influence Yes, some influence Yes, a little influence No, none 39b. If so, please describe how it has influenced your role as a teacher:
Yes, some influence Yes, a little influence No, none
Yes, a little influence No, none
No, none
39b. If so, please describe how it has influenced your role as a teacher:
40. Please describe how your school supports the physical and emotional/psychological wellbeing of its students:

Student Wellbeing in your School

This section includes further questions relating to your level of involvement in extra-curricular activities which relate to student wellbeing.

For the purpose of this survey:

Wellbeing can be defined as being present when a person realises their potential, is resilient in dealing with the normal stresses of their life, takes care of physical wellbeing and has a sense of purpose, connection and belonging to a wider community. Wellbeing occurs on a continuum, it is a fluid way of being and <u>needs nurturing throughout life</u>. Although the definition of wellbeing is based on individuals, the present study recognises that <u>wellbeing</u>. $\underline{\textit{is in part determined by the person's environments and interpersonal relationships}} \ \textit{within those environments}.$

41a. How would you classify your level of involvement in extra-curricular student wellbeing activities in your school? *

Exclude the teaching of curriculum relating to student wellbeing, i.e. exclude teaching in SPHE, CSPE, Physical Education, or Wellbeing.

Include, for example: organising wellbeing events such as class retreats; co (e.g. child protection, mental health promotion); or involvement in school e	aching of sports outside of PE class; holding a specific student wellbeing role evaluation relating to the area of student wellbeing.
Very involved	
Somewhat involved	
Not involved	
41b. Please tell us why:	
42a. Do you have any additional responsibilities for student w	vellbeing in your school? *
(e.g. promoted post, voluntary duties)	
Yes	No No
42b. If yes, please describe your additional responsibilities:	

43. How many minutes did you spend on <u>extra-curricular</u> activities relating to student wellbeing during your most recent complete calendar week? *
Please make sure you give your answer in <u>minutes</u> . For example, 3 hours per week is 180 minutes (3 x 60 minutes).
If you have not spent any time on extra-curricular activities relating to student wellbeing in the last calendar week, enter '0'.

Your Needs in Relation to TPL in the Area of Student Wellbeing

44. Of the TPL that you have undertaken since September 2018, what percentage of it focused on student wellbeing? * 0% (I did not participate in any TPL in the area of student wellbeing since September 2018) up to 25% 26-50% 51-75% More than 75% 45. Did the professional learning activities that you have participated in since September 2018 meet your learning needs, in the area of student wellbeing? * Yes No N/A, I did not participate in any TPL in the area of student wellbeing since September 2018 46. Please indicate the extent of your professional learning needs in relation to the following areas of student wellbeing: * Mark one choice in each row. No need at all Low level of need Moderate level of need High level of need Whole school TPL to implement curriculum changes Whole school TPL to implement policy changes Child protection Critical incident SPHE curriculum

CSPE curriculum

Physical Education curriculum						
Wellbeing at Junior Cycle						
Social and emotional skills						
Mental health			\bigcirc			
Student discipline and behaviour management			\bigcirc	\bigcirc		
Teaching students with special learning needs				\bigcirc		
Including students with special needs in the wider school community				\bigcirc		
Developing positive relationships between parents and teachers/principals				\bigcirc		
Teaching in an inclusive manner in a diverse setting			\bigcirc	\bigcirc		
Responsible use of digital technologies/cyber bullying	\bigcirc			\bigcirc		
47. If you have any further wellbeing needs that have not been mentioned above, please outline you specific needs below:						