## **Special 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 30 special 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 ro	ll number.		
Please choose			▼
2. Please type your school's pho	ne number into the box below:	*	
This information is used to check and c	onfirm 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			
Class Teacher			
Other (Please specify)			
4. In general, how happy is the e size? *	nvironment for pupils and tead	chers in your school, relative to	other schools of the same
Mark one choice in each row.			
	Happier	As happy	Less happy
Pupils			
Teachers			

All or nearly all		
More than half		
Less than half		
Only a few		

5. What proportion of parents would approach you informally to discuss their child's progress?  $\boldsymbol{\star}$ 

# **Teacher Information**

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

9. 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					
10. In what year did you begin employment in this 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					
11. Which of the following best describes you? *					
Male					
Female					
Other (including non-binary, agender, gender-fluid)					

Prefer not to say
12. To which age group do you belong? *
Under 25
25 - 29
30 - 39
40 - 49
50 - 59
Over 60
13. Do you have any additional formal (certified) qualifications <u>relating to your work as a teacher</u> ? *
Tick all that apply.
Cert/Diploma
M.Ed.
M.Sc.(Ed.)
M.A.(Ed.)
Ph.D./Ed.D.
No, I do not

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

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

#### **Teacher Information**

# 15. What age group do you teach? \* You can select multiple options. If you teach a multi-age class, tick all that apply. 4-8 years 9-12 years 13-15 years 16-18 years 16. What 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 Studies)

Personal Subjects (CSPE, SPHE, Physical Education)

Wellbeing	
Business Subjects (Accounting, Business Studies, Economics)	
Computer Science	
Artistic Subjects (Music, Art, Visual Art)	
Other (Please specify)	
<b>17.</b> Do you currently teach one or more of the following subjects with a particular focus  Tick all that apply.	on wellbeing? *
SPHE	
CSPE	
Physical Education	
Wellbeing (i.e. timetabled curricular learning experiences in the Wellbeing programme)	
No - I do not teach any of these subjects	
18. During your most recent complete calendar week, how many minutes in total did your wellbeing and (b) teaching pupil wellbeing at your school? *  Please make sure you give your answer in minutes. For example, 3 hours per week is 180 minutes (3 x 60 m lf you have not spent any time on tasks related to pupil wellbeing or teaching pupil wellbeing in the last complete' calendar week is one that was not shortened by breaks, public holidays, sick leave, etc.	ninutes).
	Total number of minutes
Tasks related to pupil 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 pupil wellbeing</u> Including but not limited to teaching SPHE and Physical Education. Include any teaching relating to pupil 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.

#### 19. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements: \*

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					$\bigcirc$		
Professional learning activities are worth the time they take					$\bigcirc$		
I have been enriched by the professional learning activities in which I have participated				$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		
Professional learning activities have not had much impact on my learning					$\bigcirc$		
Professional learning activities have not had much impact on my teaching or professional practice	$\bigcirc$			$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		
Professional learning activities have not had much impact on my pupils' outcomes							
20. 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 change your selection, click again on an item that you have selected to de-select it and then make your new selection.							
School based support including school visits from support service personnel							

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
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

22. How effective are the following forms of TPL in informing your <u>professional knowledge</u> , <u>competence</u> , and <u>skills</u> ? *							
Mark one choice in each row.							
	Highly effective	Somewhat effective	Somewhat ineffective	Highly ineffective	Never experienced thi type of TPL		
School based support including school visits from support service personnel							
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							
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				$\bigcirc$			
Working with others - Lesson study							
Networking - Informal networking with colleagues							

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

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			

# 23. 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					
Events - Presentations by facilitators, question and answer sessions, and/or panel discussions		$\bigcirc$			$\bigcirc$
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	$\bigcirc$				

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			

## 24a. 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				
Pupil learning outcomes				
Value for money				
Relevance to classroom practice				
Alignment to the curriculum		$\bigcirc$		

25. In your opinion, how useful are the	following instrum	ents in evaluating the in	npact of TPL? *	
Mark one choice in each row. n the following questions, we use the term 'par	rticipant' for the teache	er/school leader participating	in the TPL.	
	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not very useful	Not useful at al
Participant questionnaires/surveys				
Participant interviews				
Reflective learning logs and journals completed by participants (either online or paper)				
Classroom observation of participants				
Pupil learning outcome measures				
nterviews with pupils/pupil questionnaires	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		
Collection of documentary evidence minutes/planning materials)				
Follow up emails from the service provider	$\bigcirc$			$\bigcirc$
26a. Please describe the most effective	TPL that you have	experienced:		

6b. How did this TPL impact on your own professional practice? How did you know it had an impact?
6c. How did this TPL impact on the outcomes of your pupils? How did you know it had an impact?
6d. How did this TPL 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.

# 27. 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)

# 28. 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... Up to half a 15 or more Prefer not to None 1-3 days 4-8 days 9-14 days day days say Over the summer holidays At other times of the year 29. For the TPL that you have completed since September 2018, did you receive scheduled time (i.e. were you permitted to be absent from classes) to undertake the TPL that took place during regular work hours? \* Yes No N/A, I did not participate in any TPL since September 2018 30. For the TPL that took place during work hours, was a substitute teacher provided in your absence? \* Yes No N/A, I did not participate in any TPL since September 2018 31. Which of the following types of TPL have you participated in since September 2018? \* You can select multiple options. N/A, I did not participate in any TPL since September 2018 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
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)

# 33. 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.

	A large impact	A moderate impact	A small impact	No impact	Did not attend this type of TPI
xternal workshop (i.e. held away from school premises, e.g. in an ducation Centre)					
xternal lecture or seminar					
n-school support (e.g. support from a PDST facilitator, NEPS sychologist, or NCSE advisor)					
chool based workshop					
/ebinar					
online course (e.g. approved online summer course)					
Mentoring/coaching					
esearch (e.g. an action research project)					
ormal networking with colleagues (e.g. clustering)					
eam teaching					
<b>4. How do you know that these professional learning activities</b> examples of this could include (but are not limited to) development of your skalues, changes to your practice, organisational level changes within your sch	ills, knowledg	ge and competenc	ies, changes	to your attitude	s, beliefs and
			litator? *		

	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 were not	evaluated			
	I don't know whether the professional learning activities I participated in were evaluated or not				
36a. S	ince September 2018, did you want to participate in more	TPL than you actually did? *			
	Yes	◯ No			
36b. If	yes, which of the following reasons explain what preven	ted you from participating in more TPL than you did? *			
Үои са	n 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)	
37a. Was there anything which prevented you from integration practice as a teacher? *	ng what you learned at these TPL activities into your day-to-day
Yes	No No
37b. If yes, what prevented you from integrating what you had day practice as a teacher? *  You can select multiple options.	ad 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)	
38. Thinking about your own role, what in your view works w	vell in terms of TPL?

). How in your view doe	s IPL need to be c	nanged/Improve	a?		

# Your Understanding of Pupil 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.

40a. Has the introduction of the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice had an influence on your role as a teacher? *
No, too soon to say
Yes, a lot of influence
Yes, some influence
Yes, a little influence
No, none
40b. If so, please describe how it has influenced your role as a teacher:
41. Please describe how your school supports the physical and emotional/psychological wellbeing of its pupils:

# **Pupil Wellbeing in your School**

This section includes further questions relating to your level of involvement in extra-curricular activities which relate to pupil 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> is in part determined by the person's environments and interpersonal relationships within those environments.

## $\textbf{42a. How would you classify your level of involvement in } \underline{\textbf{extra-curricular}} \textbf{ student wellbeing activities in your school? *} \\$

Exclude the teaching of curriculum relating to pupil wellbeing, i.e. exclude teaching in SPHE and Physical Education.

Include, for example; organising wellbeing events such as class retreats; coaching of sports outside of PE class; holding a specific pupil wellbeing role

(e.g. child protection, mental health promotion); or involvement in school ev	
Very involved	
Somewhat involved	
Not involved	
42b. Please tell us why:	
43a. Do you have any additional responsibilities for pupil wellb	peing in your school? *
(e.g. promoted post, voluntary duties)	
Yes	No
43b. If yes, please describe your additional responsibilities:	

44. How many minutes did you spend on <u>extra-curricular</u> activities relating to pupil wellbeing during your most recen
complete calendar week? *

Please make sure you give your answer in minutes. 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 Pupil Wellbeing

45. Of the TPL that you have undertaken since September 2018, what percentage of it focused on pupil wellbeing? \*

0% (I did not participate in any TPL in	the area of student we	llbeing since September 2	2018)	
up to 25%				
26-50%				
51-75%				
More than 75%				
46. Did the professional learning activi the area of pupil wellbeing? *	ties that you have p	articipated in since Se	eptember 2018 meet you	r learning needs, in
Yes	No	No		
N/A, I did not participate in any TPL in wellbeing since September 2018  47. Please indicate the extent of your p		needs in relation to	the following areas of pu	pil 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				
Physical Education curriculum			$\bigcirc$	

Social and emotional skills						
Mental health						
Student discipline and behaviour management			$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		
Teaching students with special learning needs		$\bigcirc$		$\bigcirc$		
Including students with special needs in the wider school community		$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$		
Developing positive relationships between parents and teachers/principals						
Teaching in an inclusive manner in a diverse setting				$\bigcirc$		
Responsible use of digital technologies/cyber bullying						
48. If you have any further wellbeing needs that have not been mentioned above, please outline you specific needs below:						
				4		