



ALL HALLOWS' CAMPUS, DCU. HOME OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND CENTRE

Church of Ireland Centre, DCU

IN THIS ISSUE

Introduction and Welcome

by Rev. Prof Anne Lodge (Director)

The DCU Church of Ireland Centre is a place of education and for education, a place of diversity and for diversity, a place of community and for community.

The DCU Church of Ireland Centre serves the Church of Ireland and Reformed Christian communities within the University and beyond its doors. It prepares teachers to work in primary schools under Protestant patronage. Students from the various Reformed Christian communities have a special pathway into this programme and do all their placements in Protestant primary schools. They undertake specialist modules to prepare them to work in small schools. They do the *Follow Me* Religious Education Certificate. The Centre oversees all these parts of their Bachelor of Education programme. The DCU Church of Ireland Centre carries on the work of the Church of Ireland College of Education to prepare teachers to work in primary schools under Protestant patronage. It celebrates the culture, values and proud traditions of the Church of

Ireland College of Education, through oversight for and custodianship of the archives and artefacts associated with the College's long history. It engages in research work with the schools in its network, with the wider educational, faith and academic communities in Ireland and internationally.

The Church of Ireland Centre works with stakeholders within the University and beyond, with those in Protestant primary and post-primary schools and with the wider community. It seeks to work with those in its own community and beyond.

The Church of Ireland Centre is the custodian of the B.Ed primary education students who enter DCU via the DC004 code.

We update our website regularly and invite you to keep in touch by visiting <https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/index.shtml>

We are also on social media and you can follow us on Facebook [@churchofirelandcentre](#) and Twitter [@CIC_DCU](#)



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Applying for the B.Ed. via the Church of Ireland Pathway DC004

by Rev.Prof Anne Lodge

Students on the Church of Ireland Centre's pathway study the B.Ed programme along with their classmates in DCU. Certain elements of the programme are unique to them.

- The CIC students do the majority of their School Placements in Protestant primary schools.
- They study the RE Cert to prepare to teach the *Follow Me* religious education programme used in Protestant primary schools and learn about the ethos of those schools.
- They take modules that study Christianity from a reformed perspective, look at world faiths, explore social and moral issues, and study the RE programmes and cultures of all types of Irish primary schools.
- They follow the specialism to prepare them to teach in small schools and multi-level classes. The aptitudes learned in this specialism benefit all those studying to be primary teachers. There are five modules in this specialism:
 - teaching in multi-level classes
 - inclusive classrooms
 - early years teaching

- project-based learning in the classroom and the school
- working and leading in small schools

APPLICATION:

Application is made via the CAO. Applicants need to include DC004 in their CAO choices by 1st February on the year of entry in order to be considered for eligibility.

ELIGIBILITY:

Students on this pathway need to demonstrate a knowledge of, and willingness to support, the Protestant ethos of these primary schools. Such knowledge and connection can include attendance at primary or post-primary schools under Protestant patronage, active engagement in a range of social and other clubs and activities (e.g. GFS, BB, GB, Church youth club). It can also include engagement with a parish or church or religious network in any of the Protestant traditions .

Eligibility is assessed by a separate application form sent out from DCU in the Spring. Applicants may be interviewed to assess eligibility.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

There are a maximum of 32 students per year given places in this stream in 1st year. The published points vary from year to year due to the small number of places on offer. This means it is impossible to pinpoint accurately from year to year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS CHECK THE DCU PROSPECTUS ONLINE.

https://www.dcu.ie/courses/undergraduate/institute_of_education/bachelor-education-restricted-entry.shtml and keep an eye on the CIC website for updates

<https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/index.shtml>.

Past Students' Association CICE

Annual Conference
8 – 10 March 2019

Kilkenny

Preparation is in full swing for our Annual Conference 2019

It is open to past students of the CIC DCU, CICE, CITC and to other graduates who are teaching in schools under Protestant management.



Our conference for this year incorporates the following themes:

- RE games & Resources
- Maths and Station Teaching
- Well-Being

Further details and booking forms are available from psacice@gmail.com

Incorporating the 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 year reunions!

Graduation November 2018

The CIC graduation and prize-giving event took place in Woodlock Hall on the DCU All Hallows' campus on Friday morning 30th November 2018.

The event included a short service of thanksgiving and the presentation of elective certificates and the Religious Education in Follow Me Certificate as well as a range of prizes and awards.

The CIC was delighted to welcome Ms. Niamh McCafferty, Education Official from the INTO who gave a speech and presented two Vere Foster medals for excellence in teaching to two of the graduating cohort. There was a reception afterwards before the graduands and their guests headed into Trinity College for their formal University graduation ceremony.



Warm congratulations to the graduating class of 2018 from all in the

Church of Ireland Centre and all those in the DCU Institute of Education who lectured this group.



Vere Foster medals winners Louise Gillespie and Ann Lundie with Niamh McCafferty INTO and Rev Prof Anne Lodge



Irish 1st prize winner Emma Horan O'Neill with Geraldine O'Connor



Carlisle and Blake winner Louise Hendy with Rev Prof Anne Lodge



RECert prize winners Emma Ferguson and Louise Gallagher with Jacqui Wilkinson



BEd special prize winner Laura Welch with Rev. Prof. Anne Lodge

Religious Education

by Jacqui Wilkinson. Lecturer in RE

Assemblies Project

This school year (2018-2019), a number of Church of Ireland schools are piloting a series of class-led assemblies written by Jacqui Wilkinson and based on the *Follow Me* programme.

Many schools include class-led assemblies in their calendar and these assemblies are planned to take the organisational pressure out of this task.

All assemblies are based on specific lessons from the class *Follow Me* book and so fulfil the aims of the *Follow Me* programme in sharing learning with other classes in the school through assemblies.

Once piloted it is hoped the assemblies will be published on-line so as all schools using the *Follow Me* programme will be able to access these resources, and indeed to share their own assembly ideas.

If any school would like to be part of the project do contact Jacqui Wilkinson (Jacqueline.wilkinson@dcu.ie) for a sample pack of assemblies.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RE ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT JACQUI

Jacqueline.Wilkinson@dcu.ie

@JWilkinson31

Useful websites

I am often asked for website recommendations for supporting RE. Some of the most useful in my opinion are:

www.request.org.uk : The re:start tab on the site is aimed at primary schools.

www.lambsongs.co.nz: A large selection of Bible stories are available in big book and powerpoint versions.

The **Beginner's Bible** is available on Youtube with cartoon versions of many Bible stories.

Truetube is a free subscriber website with many videos and resources, particularly for teaching world religions.



App

RE definitions is a free app available to install and gives practical definitions for religious terminology.

CPD in RE for Schools

Last term I was in four Church of Ireland schools delivering some **CPD in Religious Education** for staff. Do contact me if you would be interested in some CPD as a cluster of schools or as an individual school and I will try to accommodate you in one of the available slots. The topics currently offered are : (select 2 for a 1 hour session). Further topics available on request.

- Assemblies and Follow Me
- RE in the Infant classroom
- Enquiry based learning with senior classes
- Teaching world religions
- Website resources to support RE
- The Church of Ireland (an overview)
- Bible story telling methods
- Creating parish school links
- Ultimate questions and discussion in senior classes

The Chester Beatty Library

The Chester Beatty library is located in Dublin Castle and has collections of manuscripts, rare books and other treasures from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Asia. It has launched a new website **www.chesterbeatty.ie** with online access to its collection. There are amazing digitised artworks and manuscripts in high definition which are very useful for enhancing teaching of RE and Visual Arts, including ancient biblical papyri.



Partnerships with schools

by Geraldine O'Connor (Director of School Placement)

The Church of Ireland Centre within DCU Institute of Education seeks to sustain and develop partnerships with the network of Protestant schools and CIC engages with partnership schools in the greater Dublin area and countrywide. This occurs particularly around supporting schools and student teachers during school placement. Student teachers connected to the Centre undertake the majority of their initial teacher school placements in Protestant primary schools and CIC seeks to develop active and reciprocal relationships with all such schools. School placement is organised and managed in line with the requirements of the Teaching Council and Institute of Education. A spirit of partnership with schools and collaboration permeates our work in school placement in line with the Guidelines on School Placement (Teaching Council, 2013).

CIC within DCU Institute of Education values the expertise and support within schools and the professional relationships which reflect engagement and partnership. The DCU Institute and CIC within it are committed to working through a partnership model founded on the values of mutual respect, trust, quality, integrity, open communication and inclusivity. CIC actively promotes communication with its partner schools and seeks to foster positive relationships and engagement associated with supporting high quality professional learning opportunities during school placements. Tutors associated with

the Centre also visit schools. School guidelines for co-operating teachers are provided to indicate placement expectations and feedback from schools is valued. Through the Institute, the Church of Ireland Centre also promotes opportunities for teachers to engage in activities in DCU, for example, through inviting schools to research and lecture events such as the recent Professional Practice and Regulation event on the 20th September which will soon be available to schools by podcast.

CIC regularly liaises with its network of schools locally for instance to arrange visits for students to multiclass settings or to share events and initiatives which occur in the Drumcondra or All Hallows campus such as Maths week or events such as music recitals. During 2017-18 a pilot training programme for cooperating teachers in partner schools on the topic of mentoring student teachers was developed in conjunction with Education Centres in Monaghan and Sligo and included as a facilitator the Director of Placement associated with the Centre. CIC schools in areas near to these Education Centres were invited to attend and some participated. In recognition of the important role of staff who support our students in placement settings, continuing professional development (CPD) for staff is being developed by the Institute

CIC within the Institute will promote all such programmes of continuing professional development offered to schools associated with the Institute of

Education within our school network.



Some local project work from school placement.



Sharing Bible stories in Drumcondra NS for World Book Day

Most students linked to the Church of Ireland Centre are on placement this term.

Year 1 students are in placement schools for 9 Mondays from February to April and then will be in school for a week at the end of May.

Year 2 students will be placed in schools for 3 weeks from 25 March – 12 April.

Year 4 students are in schools from 11 February – 10 May teaching in two different classroom settings.

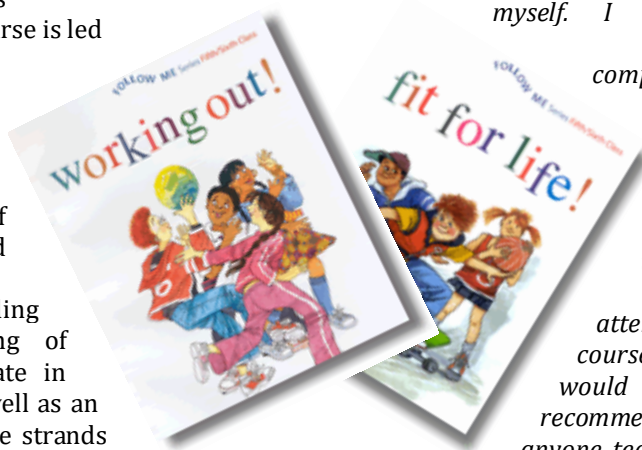
We thank our network of partnership schools for their welcome and support of students on placement.

Certificate in Religious Education (Follow Me)

by Jacqui Wilkinson

This Certificate is offered to existing teachers in Church of Ireland and other Protestant primary schools who did not undertake their initial teacher education qualifications in CICE or through DC004 linked to the Church of Ireland Centre, DCU; and who have classroom experience of at least a year teaching the Follow Me RE Curriculum. The General Synod Board of Education sponsors this course as part of their support for schools in the Church of Ireland, Methodist, Presbyterian and Society of Friends network. The course is led by Jacqui Wilkinson.

The course is comprised of a series of workshops and accompanying coursework leading to the awarding of the RE Certificate in Follow Me. As well as an exploration of the strands and content of Follow Me other special topics include 'Infants and Play', 'ICT and RE', 'Enquiry based learning in RE', 'Ethos and parish school links' and 'Handling the big questions with senior classes'.



Former participants have reflected: *'I really believe that I walked away with a greater amount of knowledge relating to how to facilitate Religious Education lessons in a fun and creative way'.*

'...while I understood the books and what they were about, I was nervous of making a mistake, or saying the wrong thing. It led me to spend hours planning my RE lessons to make sure what I wanted to do was correct. I never felt secure in my knowledge of the Follow Me scheme. I always doubted myself. I now feel confident, competent and ready to go'.

'I have thoroughly enjoyed attending this course and would highly recommend it to anyone teaching in a Church of Ireland school. My knowledge has increased two fold, I have built up a fantastic bank of resources and I without doubt know my teaching style of the subject has changed for the better'.



RE Certificate Participants 2018

'As a class, we now enjoy asking 'big questions' and thankfully, someone in the class, rarely me, can come up with an answer that we can accept, knowing that we don't need to agree upon it'.

The RE Certificate Course in Follow Me will be offered in 2019. **If teachers are interested please contact Jacqui Wilkinson. There is the possibility of a course in the diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory and a course in Cork. Other options can be discussed.** (Jacqueline.wilkinson@dcu.ie).

Participants will need to indicate the support of both their school principal and Chair of their Board of Management for their participation.



In the image are some CIC BEd 4 students after a seminar in December which was facilitated by representatives of the Irish Primary Principals' Network in DCU All Hallows Campus. Students gained an insight into the current positive employment prospects for primary teachers and received an overview of job application and interview processes as well as learning about EducationPosts.ie. The session was at the invitation of the Director of School Placement at the Church of Ireland Centre, DCU and we were delighted with the positive response.

OTHER NEWS

Year 4

We were delighted to welcome Janet Twigg, Stella Downes and April Cronin to share their vast experience on teaching in multi grade settings in small schools with our CIC 4th year electives.

Year 4 Specialist Modules

As part of preparation for professional practice in small schools, students connected to the CIC undertake a specialism called **Teaching in Multi-level classes: Working in Small Schools**. Students consider the benefits and challenges of small schools for members of the school community and develop skills and understanding in a variety of flexible teaching approaches.

The module connects strongly to real school settings with input from teachers from some of our partner schools. Key to the the module is promotion of positive experiences and perspectives about small schools and students are encouraged to undertake observation, school placement and teaching in small school settings.

The image shows BEd 4 students during a recent workshop in this elective



SAVE THE DATE

The annual Church of Ireland Primary School Management Association (CIPSMA) will take place on 2 March in DCU.

Further details to follow

News From Current Students

Alana Nixon from Year 2 is going to Cambodia this August with Tearfund. She says ' *We will be working alongside a local church there, particularly working against human trafficking. We will also be working in the local orphanage and helping in the local community*'.

We wish her well and look forward to hearing about her experiences.



This Newsletter will be issued each school term. We hope it will keep our network of schools up to date with the work based in the Church of Ireland Centre , DCU.

Do remember to check our website for updates, like us on facebook and follow us on twitter for up to date news.

<https://www.dcu.ie/church-of-ireland-centre/index.shtml>

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