

## Education Support Centres

Title: Empowering Educators for Half a Century

Category: Education

Date of Release: 17 October 2023

From: Dr Helen Heneghan, Director, Drumcondra Education Support Centre

Drumcondra, Dublin 9. 01- 857 6426

[director@ecdumcondra.ie](mailto:director@ecdumcondra.ie) <https://ecdumcondra.ie>



Drumcondra Education Support Centre is delighted to let you know that The Education Support Centres (ESCs) network, comprising 21 full-time and 7 part-time dedicated Centres across the country has announced the celebration of its 50th anniversary. This significant milestone reflects five decades of commitment to supporting local educators and enhancing the quality of education in our community. Each centre has made a unique contribution to the local and national educational community. The ESC network under the umbrella of Education Support Centres Ireland is committed to enhancing the quality of education and fostering lifelong learning among educators.

Established in various years over the past half-century, each of the 21 ESCs in our network has played a vital role in shaping the educational landscape in Ireland. From the earliest establishments in 1973, these Centres have been at the forefront of providing valuable resources, professional development opportunities, and personalised support to teachers, school leaders, and educational professionals.

**Fifty years ago, a group of primary and post-primary teachers adopted the first constitution for the Drumcondra Teachers' Centre. The Centre has been a leader in the development of the National Education Centre Network and in the design and delivery of professional development initiatives both at a national and local level. The Centre has been an energetic agent for change in Irish Education. It is one of the largest in the national network of twenty-one Centres and caters for the catchment area of Dublin north city and county: over 250 Primary Schools, 75 Post-Primary and Further Education School Communities and approximately 5,000 teachers who form its main client base**

The Centre offers ease of access and a full range of modern facilities for meetings and programme administration. It also organises a varied local course programme of activities for teachers, school management, ancillary staff and parents in response to demand.

Drumcondra Education Centre hosts and administers a number of national programmes on behalf of the DES. These currently comprise of Oide JCT, Oide Primary STEM and Oide Post Primary Maths and the training for school Boards of Management (Primary and Post-Primary). The Centre also offers a range of teacher continuing professional development opportunities both as DE mandated and local elective courses.

The pinnacle of our ESCI celebrations will take place on **7<sup>th</sup> November** at the iconic Croke Park, where we will host a grand anniversary event. This event, set against the backdrop of one of Ireland's most renowned venues, will be a testament to the dedication and hard work of staff, volunteers, and the educators from right across the country with whom we have had the privilege to serve over the years. It will also be an opportunity for the network to reflect on our achievements and to discuss our vision for the future.

Drumcondra Education Support Centre extends its gratitude to our local education community for their unwavering support over the past five decades. We also express our sincere appreciation to the dedicated volunteers and partners who have played a vital role in our success.