

Team Teaching project

Facilitating effective co-teaching among co-operating teachers and student teachers on school placement.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Ms. Angela Rickard (MU) with Ms. Rachel Farrell & Dr. Marie Clynes (PDST)

OVERVIEW

The research initiative involved experienced teachers (co-operating teachers generally) working in partnership with student teachers from the Professional Masters in Education (PME) course to plan, deliver and reflect on a team teaching experience.

The purpose of this research project was to facilitate the development of team teaching skills among individual student teachers and their co-operating teachers, and to disseminate the learning in schools and among others not directly included in the project.

KEY DATES

January 2015: Preliminary planning

Feb 25th Workshop I: Introduction to Team Teaching

February/ March: Lesson delivery in schools

Mar 25th Workshop II: Reflection and evaluation

Apr 27th Seminar in Maynooth University

Guest Speakers:

- Prof. Sharon Todd, MU
- Ms Rachel Farrell, PDST
- Dr. Seán O'Leary, Wexford Education Centre
- Ms. Pauline Connolly, Special Ed. Support Service

“Students benefit from the experience and expertise of 2 teachers (information, ideas, activities)... the students are learning more than content, they are learning life skills with teachers as examples (e.g., working together, conflict resolution)”

“I feel it offers an opportunity for struggling students to be included in the class - the middle section that is forgotten and also the high achieving students”

“While rewarding, it is time-consuming...difficult to see how it could be enacted at a whole school level.”

“It was great collaborating with an experienced teacher and to be able to contribute ideas and expand them together. Great to have a professional time and space to discuss these ideas and improve upon them through collaboration.”

“Nice idea but somewhat unrealistic... not enough resources are made available for it.”

