

Press release 19th November, 2014

Special educational needs conference unveils major research

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) will today host its sixth annual research conference in Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin.

This year, around 300 stakeholders, including teachers, principals, parents, advocacy group representatives, policy makers and academics will come to hear some of the latest research findings in the field.

The conference will open with US expert and guest speaker, Professor Samuel Odom, who will outline some of the most up-to-date research evidence on effective interventions for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and describe to conference how these can be put into practice.

This will be followed by presentations from two NCSE commissioned studies in the area of autism. The first is a systematic review of recent evidence on effective educational provision, while the second provides preliminary findings from an evaluation of educational provision for students with ASD in Ireland.

Additionally, findings about educational experiences and outcomes for Irish children with special educational needs will be highlighted in presentations from two other NCSE commissioned studies. The first is an analysis of data from the Growing Up in Ireland study and the second, Project IRIS, is a study of 120 students with special educational needs across 24 schools over a three year period.

Jennifer Doran, NCSE Head of Research, noted that ‘over the last few years, we have been building up our research programme on special education provision and the experiences of students, parents and teachers in Ireland, as well as reviewing international policy and practice. This provides us with important knowledge to inform our work and provide the Minister for Education and Skills with evidence-informed policy advice on special education’.

Notes to Editor

The Conference

- The sixth annual NCSE research conference is being held in Croke Park Conference Centre, on Wednesday 19th November 2014 from 9am- 4pm. The conference agenda is available on our website- www.ncse.ie.
- The conference allows the NCSE to disseminate research findings from our multi-annual programme of research. Conference presentations and abstracts will be available on our website today at 10.00am- www.ncse.ie.
- One of the reports from today's conference will also be published on our website- *Educational Experiences and Outcomes for Children with Special Educational Needs: A Secondary Analysis of Data from the Growing Up in Ireland Study*.