

Special Education in Post-Primary Schools – the Last Ten Years

Mary Byrne

Abstract

This presentation examines key statistics and findings from national research on special education in post-primary schools over the last five to ten years. A question arising from these findings is whether the last ten years has, for students with special educational needs, given rise to greater inclusion or greater retention or more diagnosis? Finally a number of questions are posed for consideration by post-primary education partners and by researchers in the area.

Biographical Note

Mary Byrne was appointed as Head of Special Education at NCSE in August 2008. Her main responsibility, in consultation with Council and other education stakeholders, is to prepare evidence-based policy advice papers for approval by Council and subsequent submission to the Minister for Education and Skills.

Before her appointment to the Council, Mary held the post of Senior Lecturer in Special Education at the Church of Ireland College of Education, Rathmines, Dublin where she worked from 1994-2008. Prior to taking up her position in the College, she worked as a learning support teacher in two post-primary schools, Caritas College, Ballyfermot (1978-1983) and Killinarden Community School, Tallaght (1983-1992) where she worked with students with special educational needs. She holds an honours B.Sc. (Psychology) and a M.A. in Education.