

# **Universal Design for Learning - A Schools Perspective**

**Billy Redmond & Fiona Keilthy**

**North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School (NWETSS)**

## **Abstract**

In this presentation we will explore how the school has introduced and embedded Universal Design for Learning in the school over the past 3 years. We will outline the key systems that operationalise the Continuum of Support in the school. Examining how the school shares information about the needs of students with complex needs and how inclusion is organised across the school.

We will look at the process we have used each year to build capacity and engagement with UDL across the community including planning and facilitating peer to peer observation to support reflection and integration of UDL with the staff. The voice of students and staff will be included throughout the presentation.

## **Bios**

Billy Redmond is currently Principal of North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School. He also works as a consultant with a number of educational partners such as ASIAm, Irelands National Autism charity where he is supporting the Autism Friendly Schools Project over the past 5 years. Previously he worked as National Co-ordinator for Teacher Induction (Post-Primary) (NIPT) and as a Regional Development officer with the National Behaviour Support Service (NBSS). He received his BEd Degree as a Home Economics and Religion and was teaching for 12 years prior to secondment. He has studied at postgraduate level in Guidance & Counselling, School Development Planning, Educational Management and Mentoring, Induction and CPD.

Fiona Keilthy joined North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School when it opened in 2016 as Head of Science and First Year Head. She was appointed Deputy Principal in June 2020. Fiona came to NWETSS from Newpark Comprehensive School where she taught Biology/Science. Prior to this, Fiona taught in London for twelve years. Fiona graduated with a BSc from UCD and completed a PGCE in Science Education and an MA in Educational Leadership from University College London.