



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council for Special Education

Research Conference 2023

Croke Park Conference Centre, Jones Road, Dublin 3

Thursday 9th November

09.00 – 16.15hrs

**Conference themes: ‘The NCSE and Inclusive Education
Service Provision in Ireland’ and
‘Universal Design for Learning (UDL)’**

Agenda

08.00 Registration and Tea/Coffee

Introduction

09.05 Welcome: **Fergal Lynch**, NCSE Council Chairperson

09.15 Conference Address: **Josepha Madigan**, TD & Minister for Special Education and Inclusion

09.30 Session 1: The NCSE and Inclusive Education Service Provision in Ireland

Chair: Peter Archer, NCSE Research Committee Chairperson

09.35 **Professor Emer Ring**, Mary Immaculate College

Building an inclusive education system - Reflecting on the last two decades and the major reform agenda

10.05 **Q & A**

10.15 **Professor Deborah Robinson**, University of Derby & **Dr. Lisha O'Sullivan**, Mary Immaculate College

Stakeholder views on the NCSE - initial findings from an independent evaluation of the NCSE frontline services

10.55 **Q & A**

11.05 **Tea/Coffee**

11.40 **John Kearney**, CEO NCSE

A world class inclusive education system: NCSE's expansion and our vision for 2026

12.20 **Q & A**

12.30 **Lunch**

14.00 Session 2: Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

Chair: Catherine Cross, NCSE Research Committee Member & National Parents Council Primary

14.05 **Lindsay Jones** – CEO, CAST

We are more alike than different: How Universal Design for Learning can change the way we think about learner variability and help us design more engaging, efficient, and equitable systems.

14.45 **Q & A**

14.55 **Billy Redmond**, Principal & **Fiona Keilthy**, Deputy Principal - North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School

A whole school approach: The experience of introducing and embedding UDL in an Irish post-primary setting

15.25 **Q & A**

15.35 **Panel discussion on UDL**

Fiona Byrnes, Principal of St. Anthony's Special School, Castlebar, on secondment with Oide

Marion Wilkinson, Senior Policy and Public Affairs, National Disability Authority

Cathy Goss, Acting Specialist Lead - UDL, NCSE

Sharon Healy, Specialist Lead - Behaviour, NCSE & former Primary Deputy Principal

16.05 **Q & A**

16.15 **Thank you and conference close**

Sign language interpretation and lunch will be provided