

Title of Research Project: An Exploration of Teacher Experiences and Perceptions of Social and Emotional Health Promotion in Irish Primary Schools: A Professional Learning Community Approach

[For previous research](#)

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Relevant key words: Social and Emotional Health; Wellbeing; Professional Learning Communities; Continuous Professional Development; Collaborative Practice; Facilitation

Summary:

This project involved a professional learning community (PLC), centred around social and emotional health of both children and teachers, which was created as part of the applicant's master's studies. The community had the positive effect of fostering communal sharing of ideas and engagement with relevant research. Group discussion was facilitated, while participants had the opportunity to discuss best practice, share on-going initiatives in their own context, participate in individual and group presentations, as well as actively engage with research - building their capacity to do so. They also had the opportunity to engage with CPD through facilitation of expert speakers. The PLC led to action research being generated amongst the schools, in a joint project exploring 'Can children effectively solve yard issues and disputes with less teacher input, thus increasing wellbeing for all?'. The findings were that when children are taught a 'common language' for problem-solving, as well as specific strategies, they are capable of taking ownership of and decreasing the occurrence of playground disputes.

Collaborative practice, community links and research engagement were key facets of this project.

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