



Inclusive Education – the Key to Better Outcomes for All

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Abstract

Introduction This paper will consider Irish policy and practice in the provision of education for students with disabilities including reference to the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 and the recent Hunt Report. This will demonstrate the need for a greater level of innovation in the provision of person-centred inclusive education for all. It will show how, appropriate teacher and student supports, can improve learning outcomes for all students.

Specific models of provision The paper will reference a number of models of inclusive education which are currently working well in Ireland and which have the potential to be replicated throughout the country and in other areas of educational provision.

National Learning Network Training Model National Learning Network delivers a range of rehabilitative and vocational training services for people with disabilities and mental health difficulties. These services are delivered according to the principles of inclusive education and all marginalised groups could benefit from the principles employed. National Learning Network's partnership with University of Wales through the PACTS project will be referenced.

Inclusive education and disability support services National Learning Network provides an inclusive education service for students in a number of colleges around Ireland and these represent best practice. It also works in partnership with the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown to deliver disability support services. These services have been recognised by a number of external reports including one recently published by the OECD. A consideration of the strengths of these initiatives and their possible replication will be included.

Summary In summary, this paper will aim to look at best practice in the provision of inclusive education. In particular, the paper will consider how both teaching and learning styles can contribute to positive outcomes for every student within a classroom.