

SCHOOL PROFILE

St Clare's Primary School
Harold's Cross
Dublin, Ireland

CLIENT INFORMATION

6 Teachers enrol in courses

Courses included:

- Educational Testing;
- Lego for Building Social/Emotional Skills;
- Building Resilience in Children

Goal:

To improve the whole school staff's understanding and approach to special needs kids.



"Every school should have it. Better teaching, learning...getting plugged into research. You know when a company lives up to every expectation? I want to share this as much as possible."

– Maria Spring

Ms. Spring Relies on Training Courses to Improve Her School's Quality of Instruction

BACKGROUND

Maria Spring is the principal of St. Clare's Primary School in Dublin, Ireland. She has run this urban National School for several years and is always looking for ways to improve her school.

The specialty teacher training courses provided by Éirim (and now also offered through the sister company, Education Elephant), were recommended to her by a professional friend in the West of Ireland, who found these courses to be of the highest quality and to deliver powerful results back at her own school. Maria decided to try out a few courses for her staff, as she had just received word that new funds were released to invest in professional development.

THE CHALLENGE

Maria wanted her teachers at St. Clare's to feel both informed and empowered by the new research in psychological testing and to incorporate it into their classrooms. She wanted to ultimately better facilitate student learning, and especially ensure teachers felt prepared in dealing with the more intense needs of some of their special needs students.

THE SOLUTION AND RESULTS

In reviewing our courses, she realised three would be ideal to help her meet these goals. She chose to enrol 4 staff, relying on them to retrain other staff back at school later.

She chose:

- Certificate in Competence in Educational Testing,
- Building Social and Emotional Skills Using Lego; and
- Building Resilience in Children.

She felt these courses would be best suited to help her teachers instruct the various students with their unique learning needs, while strengthening the experience and learning environments of all staff and students at the school.

After taking these courses, Maria shared the biggest impact they had on her staff:

They learned how to manage each of their classes more effectively, due to gaining a better understanding of how each of their individual students learn.

All 4 teachers greatly expanded their knowledge of working with learning disabilities. These staff were naturally excited to share this knowledge and new tips with their colleagues. As a result, Maria says, the children also grew in their team spirit and willingness to learn.

The kids' creativity and curiosity were also sparked, thanks to courses like the 'Lego' course, which now allows the school and their families to approach specific learning disabilities, like Autism, differently and more successfully, together.

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