

# Report of ACCS Education Sub-Committee 2020/2021

Members: **Paul Fiorentini, President, Pat McKenna, Chairperson, Paul Thornton, James Duignan, Mary Jackson, Denis Ring, Adrian Jackson, Patsy McVicar, Áine O’Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary and John Irwin, General Secretary.**

The Education Sub-Committee works under the direction of the ACCS Executive Committee. The Sub-Committee meets regularly and reports to the Executive Committee on issues of an educational nature in our schools. The focal point of the year for the Education Sub-Committee is the Education Conference which takes place annually during the final term of the year. This conference, as well as catering for school leaders, is aimed at the practitioners who are leading learning in their classroom, subject departments and individual schools.

The Education Sub-Committee endeavours to address the issues of concern for schools that are of educational significance and impact on quality of teaching and learning as well as student service and the leading of learning.

In March 2020 planning for the ACCS Education Conference 2020 was well underway. The chosen theme of the Conference “Celebrating Student Voice in School Communities” highlighted the ongoing work and partnership between ACCS and the NCCA. ACCS has been involved in a project with the NCCA and with its member schools since September 2018 exploring strategies and sharing initiatives which build on good practices established at school level.

The conference was planned as a showcase event designed to highlight the wonderful work promoting and harnessing student voice in our schools and was scheduled to take place on the 6th May 2020 in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois.

Unfortunately, with the turbulent situation created by the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, while the work on promoting student voice continues, these plans were put to one side as schools closed across the country. It is hoped that the planned showcase event will take place sometime in 2021.

## Other work of the Education Sub-Committee

ACCS has a representative on the Executive Committee of the NCCA, representatives on the Junior and Senior Cycle Committees and on various NCCA subject and course committees. Our representatives, while accountable to the ACCS Executive Committee, represent the voice of Community and Comprehensive Schools in the decision-making processes at this level. We wholeheartedly thank our representatives who willingly give of their time to ensure our voice is heard.

I thank all the members of the Education Sub-Committee who have given so generously of their time, expertise and enthusiasm. I would like to thank our General Secretary, John Irwin, for his support, advice and his ability to challenge us to reflect on our work. On behalf of the Sub-Committee, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Assistant General Secretary, Áine O’Sullivan, for her central role in inspiring, driving and enthusiastically supporting the work of the Sub-Committee.

**Pat McKenna,  
Chairperson.**