



Department of
Education
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Transform**ED**

ONE YEAR ON |
BUILDING ON SUCCESS



**CELEBRATING LITERACY
IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

TUESDAY 12 MAY 26
9:30am–1pm



Programme



**EDUCATION MINISTER
PAUL GIVAN MLA**

- 08:30–09:20 **Registration**
- 09:30–09:50 **Welcome and opening**
Minister of Education, Mr Paul Givan MLA
- 09:50–10:30 **What the evidence tells us about effective literacy practice in schools**
Dr Jennifer Buckingham
- 10:30–11:00 **Break**
- 11:00–11.25 **Our journey with oracy**
Michele Moore, Rathmore Primary School, Bangor
- 11:25–11:50 **Our journey with phonics**
Maria McGoran, Holy Family Primary School, Belfast
- 11:50–12:15 **Our journey with spelling**
Caoimhe Calpin and Katie Russell, St Teresa’s Primary School, Belfast
- 12:15–12:45 **Panel questions and answers**
- 12:45–13:00 **Moving forward and building on success**
Dr Geraldine Magennis-Clarke
- 13:00 **Lunch and networking**

Keynote speakers



**DR JENNIFER
BUCKINGHAM**

Dr Jennifer Buckingham OAM is the Executive Director of the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) in the New South Wales Department of Education. She previously served as Director of Strategy and Senior Research Fellow at MultiLit, and as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies.

Dr Buckingham is co-editor and co-author of ‘Effective Instruction in Reading and Spelling’ (MRU Press, 2023) and ‘An Investigation of Literacy Instruction and Policy in the United Kingdom and Ireland’ (Churchill Trust Australia, 2024). Her work focuses on evidence-based literacy instruction, education policy, and improving learning outcomes for all students.



**DR GERALDINE
MAGENNIS-
CLARKE**

Geraldine Magennis-Clarke is Senior Lecturer in Education and Literacy at St Mary’s University College, Belfast. Her research focuses on early reading instruction and children’s literature. She has worked extensively with schools to translate research into practice and held a Visiting Professorship at Valparaiso University, USA (2017–2019). Geraldine founded the Science of Reading Northern Ireland (SoRNI) group and is a member of the Literacy Association of Ireland. In 2025–2026, she has taken up a seconded role as literacy advisor for the Department of Education’s new Literacy Strategy.

Important information

As we are expecting a large number to be in attendance at the conference we would ask that all delegates take note of the following important information to ensure that the event runs as smoothly as possible.

The programme provides details on the speakers, topics and expected timings – the conference will commence at **9.30am** and conclude by **1pm**. All sessions will be held in the Milford Suite.

Each session features experts who will offer insights on key themes in education and will allow time for question and answers. You will also have the opportunity to submit questions for the afternoon panel discussion.

LOCATION

The **La Mon Hotel and Country Club** is located at **41 Gransha Road, Castlereagh, Belfast BT23 5RF**.

PARKING

Complimentary on-site parking is available for 330 vehicles at **La Mon Hotel and Country Club**. Additional overflow parking is provided at nearby **Granshaw Presbyterian Church** (54 Gransha Road Castlereagh, Belfast BT23 5RF), bringing the total to 500 spaces.

A free shuttle service will run between the overflow car park and the hotel. Please factor in time on the day for parking and consider car sharing or public transport if possible.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be available from **8.30am**, with tea and coffee served on arrival. The conference will start at **9.30am**.

LUNCH

A variety of items will be available to suit all tastes with options for vegetarian, gluten free and other common dietary needs.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Please be advised that the speakers in the main room are being filmed and photography will be taking place for promotional purposes. Photographs may appear in the TransformED newsletter or on the Department's website and social media.

WIFI

WIFI Network: Guest_LH. Password: LamonGuest

CONTACT US

If you've any questions feel free to contact us at:
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