



# Learning Reps News

## Happy New Year!

Edinburgh Local Association

I'm sure you know what I mean! We all know that we in the teaching profession work on different timescales to others - whether that's in the frenetic pace of our everyday activities or in our return to school for the start of the new session. The challenges seem to grow bigger year on year whilst the time needed to do our work to our own satisfaction gets smaller and smaller. Professional Learning is our entitlement and is one of the ways in which we can all take back some control of our own working lives. As your EIS Learning Reps, Martyn, Jim and I wanted to reintroduce ourselves to old hands as well as say a big hello to new members. We are here to help and support you in your learning aspirations and welcome all questions, queries and suggestions. In the year ahead we also want to develop, highlight and promote some opportunities we are currently working on.

### Health & Well-Being – Caring for Yourself

The analogy of putting your own oxygen mask on first is obvious to our every-day professional reality. The learning environment in our classrooms is to a very large extent shaped by us and where we are in terms of our own well-being, including our mental health, sense of purpose, and ability to manage stress. Fortunately, there are many ways to improve your own well-being, and

within your own PL plans you hopefully might be encouraged to dedicate some time to developing your own knowledge and skills in H&WB areas that are important to you. Bearing in mind that for PRD purposes we must seek to reflect against GTCS Standards, it is reassuring to note that there is an expectation for *'Promoting health and wellbeing of self, colleagues and the children and young people in my care'* (Standard 1.1 Professional Values, The standard for Career-Long Professional Learning, 2021).

It may be that you have already identified H&WB as an area for development, or perhaps you might have left some wriggle room for flexibility in your PRD plans and are a little unsure about whether H&WB counts!? This is certainly a question we have been asked a few times over the last few months in the course of delivering our PRD and PU information sessions. As a consequence we are aiming to produce another worked example of how we might use The Professional Learning Cycle Model to conceptualize H&WB ideas as part of our own PRD plans. This will be loaded on to the LR area of the EIS Local Association website in due course.

Whilst the EIS is firmly of the belief that members should decide their own PL priorities it is nevertheless very encouraging for us to learn that our employer is also keen to engage with us to explore ways in which H&WB benefits can be specifically delivered to teaching staff. Alison, Martyn and Claire Young, our colleague from Drummond Community HS, recently met with Lorna French to discuss this and a collaborative working group has been founded comprising members of the Local Association and CEC leaders. As you may be aware Claire has in the past delivered some learning in this area and we are hopeful that her expertise can again be put to good use in the forthcoming year. Look out for details.

"...Place the oxygen mask on yourself first before helping small children or others who may need your assistance."



## Learning for Sustainability

Once of the things that I have been thinking about for some time is how best to support delivery of the pupil entitlement to LfS in a more comprehensive way. As a secondary teacher I can see that this is perhaps less challenging for our primary colleagues to achieve? (I'm not saying it's easy!!) But for instance how can secondary school colleagues delivering distinct subjects embed LfS in their learning? Notwithstanding the difficulties, I noted in the CEC SIP document that recently arrived into schools, one of the key outcomes is that: *'Learning for Sustainability is embedded in our curriculum in all classes'*.

Delivering on that pupil entitlement, and indeed meeting the expectation of the GTCS that we do so is indeed incredibly challenging and needs urgent attention. More change is not something that will generally appeal to us teachers, but is to do nothing really an option? Good knowledge and developing our 'Sustainability Literacy' is a good start and many of you might be aware that the GTCS in partnership with Learning for Sustainability Scotland have developed an LfS Hub with 3 self-directed learning modules. The modules contain a variety of learning resources and reflective questions for you to work through and facilitate discussion with colleagues. We know that there is already excellent practice in our schools, and in no way am I proposing myself as an expert, but I am looking for ways to further engage with and support members who are looking to develop their LfS practice, so please let me know. Our work here in Edinburgh will definitely feed into and support the EIS's approach to LfS nationally which is being led by Rob Henthorn our Professional Learning Co-ordinator at EIS HQ.

## Financial services

EIS financial services are keen to run an in person drop in event for Edinburgh members to talk pensions, savings and all things financial. Would there be interest in this?

## Business Gateway

Last session we ran a learning event with business Gateway Edinburgh. Advice and information on supports available to members wishing to develop business interests away from school was provided. We are currently investigating the possibility of running this event again so we will seek to gauge interest in due course.

## EIS Professional Learning Opportunities September to December 2023

There are a number of EIS PL courses and opportunities now available for members to register. These are routinely available on the EIS website, but please also see below for courses on which members can already register.

As always, please feel free to contact any of us about anything you wish to discuss about your own learning aspirations.

Best wishes  
Dominic

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[Professional Standards for Teachers - The General Teaching Council for Scotland \(gtcs.org.uk\)](https://www.gtcs.org.uk)  
[Learning for Sustainability - The General Teaching Council for Scotland \(gtcs.org.uk\)](https://www.gtcs.org.uk)  
[Courses we offer \(eis.org.uk\)](https://www.eis.org.uk)

The following professional learning opportunities will be delivered from **September to December 2023**. We look forward to welcoming you along to EIS professional learning opportunities in the coming months.

The following are available to book now on the EIS website: <a href="https://www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/Courses">https://www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/Courses</a> .	
Exploring Leadership for Teachers and Lecturers in Supply and Peripatetic Roles	Wednesdays 27th September, 25th October, 8th November. Online evenings.
Here and Now: co-creating everyday possibilities for the inclusion of every child	Saturday 30th September. Glasgow, 10am-4pm.
Conflict Resolution and Restorative Practices	Thursday 26th October. Edinburgh 10am-2.30pm.
Practical Podcasting for Educators	Friday 27th October. Edinburgh 10am-4.30pm.
Working with Stories and Wordless Picture Books	Wednesdays 25 <sup>th</sup> October and 29 <sup>th</sup> November. Online evenings.
Understanding Neurodivergence in the Classroom	Wednesday 1st November. Online evening.
Exploring Teacher Agency	Friday 10th November. Glasgow 10am-4pm.
Exploring Leadership for FE Lecturers	Saturday 11th November. Edinburgh 10am-4pm.
Drawing as a creative pedagogical tool for learning and inclusion	Saturday 25th November. Glasgow 10am-4pm.

