



CENTRE FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Research Alive -

An initiative to close the gap between teaching practice and educational research

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The Partners



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and Professor Mark Morgan



Purpose of the Initiative

- To explore the needs of teachers for evidence in their practice.
- To identify barriers to access to relevant evidence.
- To facilitate communication between the education partners on this matter.
- To promote evidence informed practice in education.



Activities

- Survey of teachers
- Invitational Seminar
- A number of practice tools
- Contribution to World Teacher's Day

Survey

An online survey was conducted among teachers during January/February 2013. The survey will establish:

- To what extent is practice evidence informed?
- What are the preferred sources of evidence?
- What are the barriers to engage with research evidence?
- What are the support needs of teachers/practitioners?

Preliminary Findings

At a glance, there are some really interesting findings...

- Respondents engage more frequently with educational research (ER) through newspaper articles and stakeholder websites but far less through social media. The picture is a little different for the 729 respondents who are teaching 1-5 years, e.g., 40% of this group, use YouTube weekly.
- Curriculum changes, in-service training and behaviours of children/students are the most important factors encouraging respondents to engage with ER.
- Over half of respondents neither led (54%) nor participated in (70%) research in the last five years.

Preliminary Findings

- Understanding students' learning, staying motivated and acquiring teaching skills are the most popular reasons to engage with ER – well over half of all respondents say ER on these makes a *major contribution*.
- Lack of time is the most important reason identified for not engaging with/using ER.

Preliminary Findings

- Research on child development/learning and research on methods of teaching/assessment are the two types of ER of greatest help to teachers.
- Teacher-initiated research, publications especially for teachers and school-support to engage with research are considered of greatest help in making ER more accessible.
- There many open comments on a variety of issues – many are general reflections on the survey itself and the work we're about.



Invitational Seminar

- Will be hosted jointly by the partners on May 11th 2013
- Approx 100 teachers, researchers and policy makers
- Presentation of survey findings, key contributions, working groups
- The aim is to develop concrete proposals for action



Practice Tools

- Research portal?
- Research digests?
- Social media?
- Free access to journals/libraries?

World Teacher's Day

- World Teachers' Day on 5th October
- Presentations of actions





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Thank you!

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