

## SEN Conference 2017 transcript

It's delightful to be here at CCEA's first SEN, Special Educational Needs conference has got 200 teachers attending this the theme and topic of this conference has been creativity and creative thinking a very important aspect in terms of delivery of education to special educational needs students.

The UK's new industrial strategy which has pinpointed the creative industries as one of the five main pillars on which they're going to build on the economy moving forward. I'm going to talk today about the research concept that I have been working on which we've called 'Inclusive Creativity'.

The inclusive creativity project where we're looking at how we use creative technologies work with people with a range of disabilities cognitive and physical to be creative it was essentially assessed as being a world leading quality.

Everyone has contributed to that structured piece so collaboration is a key and I know in some situations that's much more difficult to manage but again I've found that it's all about the patience, it's all about taking the open approach to collaboration very seriously.

It can be manifesting projects were for instance we form inclusive ensembles so that includes musicians with disabilities and without disabilities. Includes amateur musicians and professional musicians and really key to that is the idea that we use digital instruments in combination with more traditional acoustic instruments.

CCEA has a big programme of work around special educational needs supporting learners supporting teachers in addressing the teaching and pedagogical needs of those learners and so this conference today really marks a milestone in that support that we are offering through the teachers bringing together through a series of workshops, through a series of activities but also as you can see even giving them opportunity to explore the materials that we offer.

And really a big sort of light bulb moment for me was how do we evolve this education and as the technology evolves how do we evolve with it how do we develop best practices but how do we keep young people safer online.

I suppose online safety affects everybody so today's event for me is all about empowering anybody who uses the internet and social media to be able to protect themselves online that's really, really important you know look at the key priorities if it's a young person on how to keep them safe online look at things that busy mums and dads can do in the home look at things that senior citizens can do in order those silver surfers can do when they are using the internet and social media to protect their privacy also to protect their own personal security in relation to online fraud you know cybercrime is on the increase, identity theft is on the rise so this is all about giving people the right information but relevant information and practical things that they can do in order to keep themselves safer online.

Today I'm going to talk about the SEN Framework and the new SEN Framework that will be coming in 2019.

We're are bringing in a new special educational needs framework. We're working on the regulations and the code of practice at the minute but we're hoping for an overall implementation date of 2019. Some of the changes for schools will be for example instead of calling the special educational needs co-ordinator by that title they'll be called the learning support co-ordinator also schools will be required to take all reasonable steps also children who have special educational needs will all need a personal learning plan very importantly for children over 16 there going to have new rights conferred on them that were previously exercised by their parents and that relates to if they have a special needs statement there are lots of other aspects coming in but it going to be quite a change for schools Education Authority is going to be providing detailed training on the changes for schools next year.

I'm going to be teaching two physically disabled children within a full class setting. They are both deaf, there non-verbal one has challenging behaviours, they're both physically disabled and one has visual impairment so today was perfect I made contact with Jordanstown School for the Deaf so they're going to keep in contact with me this year and I'm going to get advice from them and some wee pointers to take me through the year.

There was a lot of recommendations for resources that I can take back into the classroom and also some strategies that I can take back in to do with the sensory needs but an important part of today was it was so lovely a lot of other SEN teachers taking part and we were really sharing experiences and information with one another.

This is our first conference be very keen to get schools involved more in the actual conference itself. So we want to consult with Principals or with teachers about what you would want to see at the conference this is supposed to be about bringing together a community of people who are involved and interested in special educational needs, and trying to push us forward and trying to develop that community into something better.