

# How to become an eTwinning School.

## Shared Leadership in Practice

Donal O Reilly - 30/01/2023



# Introductions



# Introductions

- Teacher for 27 years – Engineering Technology
- M.A. ICT in Ed.
- Worked in seven secondary schools in Ireland
- Deputy Principal/Acting Principal at Killorglin Community College for 12 years
- Leadership Associate – National induction programme for newly appointed Deputy Principals
- Leadership Mentor – support for newly appointed Deputy Principals
- eTwinning Ambassador – 2016 to 2020
- EU SchoolNet Facilitator
- Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert 2019
- Twitter @DoReilly\_Edu



# Introductions

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## **Question 1:**

What country are you joining us from today?

## **Question 2:**

What animal would you choose to describe how you are feeling today?

## How to become an eTwinning School



- eTwinning Schools have a commitment to shared leadership
- eTwinning Schools display a strong commitment to collaboration, sharing and team work
- Students in eTwinning Schools are agents of change
- eTwinning Schools are models for other schools
- eTwinning Schools are inclusive and innovative learning organisations



The more reflective you are, the more effective you are.

- Hall & Simeral

# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools have a commitment to shared leadership.’

How can we achieve this?  
Who is responsible?

“The school Principal and Teacher Leaders ...” eTwinning School Mission

- Relationships
- Trust
- Accept mistakes and learn from them
- Communication



# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools have a commitment to shared leadership.’



- The language of leadership
- Identify the leaders
- Encourage
- Small steps
- Create the space to lead
- Be mindful of delegation

“If you want to go fast, go alone,  
if you want to go far, go together”.  
African Proverb



# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools display a strong commitment to collaboration, sharing and team work.’



Collaboration – ‘real’ collaboration can be messy

Sharing – inside and outside of the school (professional networks)

Team Work – How can this be developed in your own context?

# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools display a strong commitment to collaboration, sharing and team work.’



- Structured subject department meetings
  - Keep it simple
  - Rotating ‘co-ordinator’
- Community of practice
- ‘Show & Tell’ – Teachmeet
- Team teaching
- Create a safe space
- Accept mistakes
- Open your classroom door!
- Professional Dialogue



**T**OGETHER **E**VERYONE **A**CHIEVES **M**ORE

# How to become an eTwinning School



‘Students in eTwinning Schools are agents of change.’

Student voice

Where are you now?

Where do you want to be?

## Space

Children and young people must be given safe, inclusive opportunities to form and express their views

## Voice

Children and young people must be facilitated to express their views

## Audience

The views must be listened to

## Influence

The views must be acted upon, as appropriate

The Lundy Model – Prof. Laura Lundy @ProfLauraLundy

This model provides a pathway to help conceptualise Article 12 of the UNCRC. It focuses on four distinct, albeit interrelated, elements. The four elements have a rational chronological order.

# How to become an eTwinning School

‘Students in eTwinning Schools are agents of change.’



- Student Council – focus groups
- Parent/Teacher/Student meetings
- Consult, Listen, Act, Feedback
- Inclusive NOT Exclusive
- Create a safe environment
- Involve in the decision making process
- Represented at ‘the table’
- Learning Spaces – student led
- Write on the windows!



**Would you eat lunch with your students?**

# How to become an eTwinning School



‘eTwinning Schools are models for other schools.’

Share your learning – share your mistakes  
Schools Network – local, national and international

Be Authentic  
Be Supportive  
Be Yourself

You DO NOT Need to be Perfect

# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools are models for other schools.’



## **We Learn**

**10% OF WHAT WE READ**

**20% OF WHAT WE HEAR**

**30% OF WHAT WE SEE**

**50% OF WHAT WE SEE & HEAR**

**70% OF WHAT WE DISCUSS**

**80% OF WHAT WE EXPERIENCE**

**95% OF WHAT WE TEACH OTHERS**

William Glasser



**We are always learning, but when we share we learn more.**

# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools are inclusive and innovative learning organisations.’

Get the balance right  
Be prepared for challenges  
Embrace the opportunities  
Have a plan



# How to become an eTwinning School

‘eTwinning Schools are inclusive and innovative learning organisations.’



- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Teaching methodologies – experiment and evaluate
- Flexibility & Adaptability to learning & assessment
- Learning spaces
- Not a ‘big bang’ approach
- Solution focused
- Write on windows!
- One size does not fit all



# How to become an eTwinning School



Why?  
**Why not?**

“The opportunity to have the creativity, teamwork and international awareness of your staff and students acknowledged.”

eTwinning Ireland on Twitter

Plus  
The Unintended Consequences



# How to become an eTwinning School



Refresh & Stretch



Consider

What ONE action can you begin tomorrow in your school/organisation?

# How to become an eTwinning School

## Policy Messages

***‘Supporting a culture of collective engagement and responsibility within your school.’***



School leaders play an important role in engaging members of the school community to fulfil their **shared mission to support learning and wellbeing for all** (learners, teachers and school staff included). Using strategies of **distributed leadership**, school leaders may draw on the complementary competences of school staff to support mutual learning, to create **new and innovative opportunities** for blended learning for inclusion, and to build the efficacy of the school community with new approaches over time.

Teachers may also be **encouraged to take on leadership roles** within their schools. Developing a shared vision for blended learning and ensuring **strong communication** between **schools, parents and learners** is also essential.

# How to become an eTwinning School

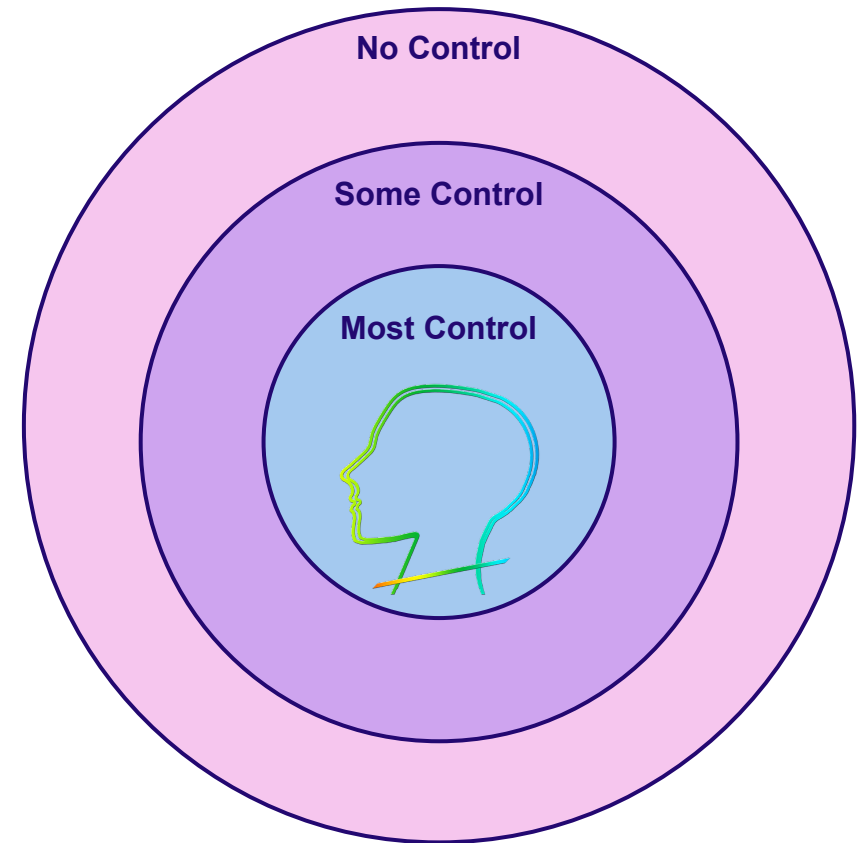
## Policy Messages

### *‘Mobilising resources within the school and community.’*

School leaders play important roles in bringing in **new resources** and forging **new partnerships** with members of the **broader community**.

With teachers, they may ensure that **resources are used effectively** to promote goals for blended learning and inclusion.

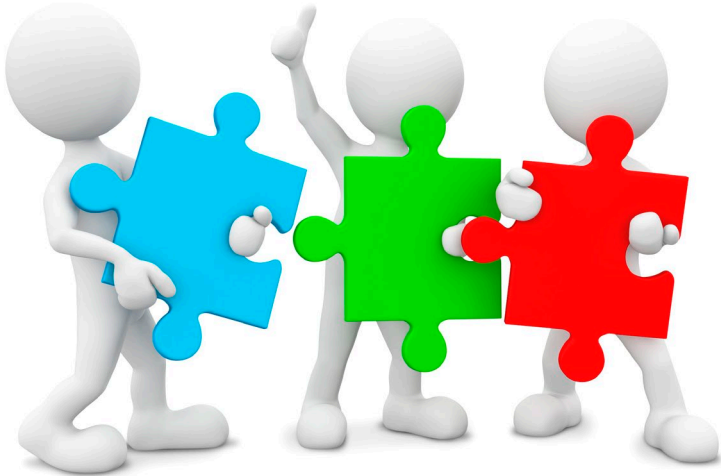
An *empowerment approach* which supports autonomous decisions within a **collaborative school culture** and draws in more resources to work in **partnerships with teachers** should be applied where possible (e.g., parents, local community partners).



# How to become an eTwinning School

## Policy Messages

*‘Encouraging participation in networks.’*



rawpixel School leaders may encourage staff to participate in networks which bring together different types of experts and may have different areas of focus. Networks may support collaboration among school leaders and school communities and with community partners. They also provide opportunities for collective learning.

# How to become an eTwinning School

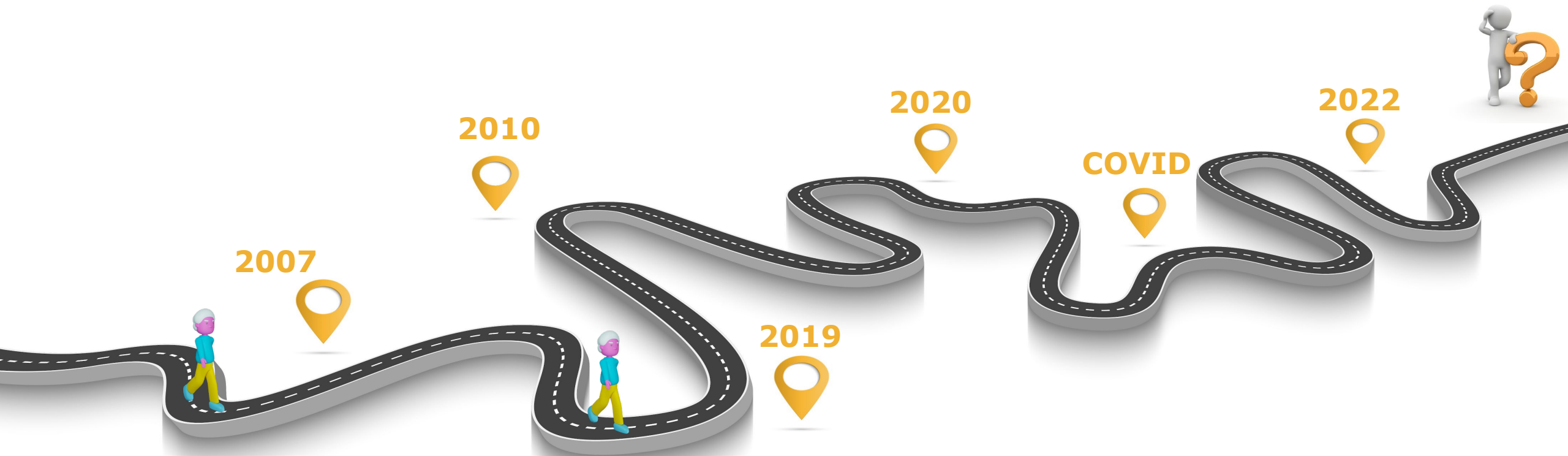
***‘I achieve OR I learn.’***

***‘I grow as much though your disappointments as though my successes.’***



# Killorglin Community College

Changes 2007 - 2023



# **Killorglin Community College**

Changes 2007 - 2023

- Staff Professional Learning
- Qualified career guidance/Counsellor
- Structured approach to SEN students
- Focus on improved teaching & learning
- Develop community links
- Develop Extra Curricular Programmes
- Curriculum Changes
- Focus on Student Wellbeing
- New Code of Behaviour
- ICT infrastructure investment
- National Priorities from Department of Education - Ireland
- Experimented with our learning environments – oval tables
- Erasmus+



# **Killorglin Community College**

Changes 2007 - 2023

- Developed links with 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges
- Professional dialogue
- Planning time for teachers
- Timetabling adjustments – 1 hour classes
- Scheduled meeting times
- Aspiring leaders
- Pastoral care
- Culture change
- Transition to secondary school programme
- Public relations
- Consult with education partners
- Project Based Learning
- eTwinning



# Go raibh maith agat

# Thank you!

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