

SMALL SCHOOLS – POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Welcome the recognition of the positive contribution of small schools
- National and international presence of small schools
 - Europe, Australia, North America, developing world
- International recognition of the positive model for the wider system
 - Small schools as a system-wide resource

OUTCOMES OF IRISH SMALL SCHOOL STUDY 2016

- Positive experiences:
 - Care, family atmosphere, limited discipline issues, no bullying
 - High academic standards
 - Highly organized classrooms, independent & peer-led learning
- Challenges:
 - Teacher workload, lack of tailored resources
 - Principal workload, lack of supports but pride in their work
 - Poor fit of the funding & teacher allocation models

KEY SUPPORTS

- Think spirally not in single-grades about curriculum, resources, text books, pedagogy
- Clustering while retaining institutional autonomy & integrity
- A different model of supports for schools of 4 teachers and less
 - Additional targeted resources
 - Reduce the administrative burden
- Pedagogical specialism for multi-level teaching at both ITE & CPD levels