



FLEXIBLE
LEARNING
OPTIONS

OPEN TO
LAWYERS AND
NON-LAWYERS



DIPLOMA CENTRE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION LAW

START DATE 29 October 2021

DELIVERY METHOD

Block placement – four Friday and Saturday sessions with lectures online (to coincide with periods of school leave)

FEE €2,900

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND APPROACH TO LEARNING

This highly regarded advanced level diploma is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the complex legal topics that arise when advising on education law matters. The programme is based on the following module scheme and covers key themes as listed below:

Module 1: Employment law in the school context – part 1

- Recruitment of staff, status of workers
- The contract of employment and understanding CIDs
- Grievance and disciplinary procedures
- Termination of employment and unfair dismissals
- The Teaching Council, registration, and ‘fitness to teach’ – part 5 of the *Teaching Council Acts 2001-2015*

Module 2: Employment law in the school context – part 2

- Promotion of staff and appointment procedures for principals
- Equality in the workplace
- Managing bullying and harassment within schools
- The application of the *Transfer of Undertaking Regulations* in the school context

Module 3: Admissions policies and student conduct

- Admission, enrolment policies, and equality provisions
- Codes of behaviour and school disciplinary procedures
- Peer-to-peer bullying and student use of social media
- Managing parental complaints

Module 4: School structures and governance

- Legislative framework – the *Education Act 1988* and amending legislation
- Structure and role of boards of management
- The role of principals and teachers
- Financial management
- The inspectorate

Module 5: Negligence and litigation management

- The duty of care in the school context
- The standard of care

- When the duty arises and the ‘boundaries’ of the school
- Sporting activities organised by schools
- Teacher negligence and contributory negligence of children
- Degree of supervision and student maturity
- Liability of the school authority

Module 6: Providing for special educational needs

- Constitutional considerations and legislative provisions
- School policies and procedures for special educational needs
- Roles and functions of boards of management and principals
- The examination and assessment process
- Equality law provisions, with a focus on disability discrimination

Module 7: Compliance matters and miscellaneous provisions

- Freedom of information and data protection concerns relevant to schools
- Child protection obligations and the role of the designated liaison person
- The *Protected Disclosures Act 2014*
- Participating in case conferences – best practice
- Tusla reporting requirements
- Health and safety provisions

Module 8: Higher, further, and adult education

- Governance structures at third level
- Student conduct issues
- Issues relevant to international students
- The examination process and managing plagiarism
- Equality provisions with a focus on disability discrimination

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The course is designed to be as accessible as possible, with key sessions taking place during standard school holidays and all lectures webcast and accessible ‘live’ or in playback format.

FACULTY

Lecturers and tutors will be drawn from experienced practitioners in the field of education law.

Previous lecturers have included:

Eileen Flynn BL | Dr. Dymphna Glendenning BL | Margaret Gorman, Eversheds Sutherland | Brendan Hennessy BL | Edel Kennedy, Mason Hayes & Curran | Tom Mallon, BL | Fergal Mawe, Law Society of Ireland | Paul McDonald, A J P McDonald Solicitors | Ian O’Herlihy, Mason Hayes & Curran | Seán O Longáin BL | Liam Riordan, Mason Hayes & Curran | David Ruddy BL | Madeleine Thornton, Emma Coffey Solicitors | Christine West, Joint Managerial Body Secretariat of Secondary Schools

CONTACT DETAILS:

LIAM DUNNE, SOLICITOR AND PROGRAMME LEADER, LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND,
EMAIL: L.DUNNE@LAWSOCIETY.IE OR TEL: 01 881 5744