

# Dr Damien Burke | Dublin City University

## General Biography

Dr Damien Burke is an assistant professor in the School of Policy and Practice at DCUloE, where he works as part of the School Placement Team. He also teaches on various reflective-enquiry and school placement-related modules.

Damien has extensive recent school-based experience having worked as a mainstream class teacher, learning support teacher, teaching principal and administrative principal in various primary schools in Dublin.

Damien's current research interests include school leadership, teacher/middle leadership, and the significant potential of subject specific leadership in Irish schools.

The RiRS offers an ideal opportunity for schools to explore the leadership potential of its own teachers to meet contemporary challenges and opportunities in Irish education. Many schools are now harnessing internal expertise to offer formal/informal professional development and pedagogical guidance to colleagues. This aligns very favourably with the "Supporting Teachers' Learning" strand of Cosán. These invaluable leadership experiences offer an excellent springboard for many teachers who are considering a move into middle and senior school leadership roles.

Many teachers also carry a particular interest and skillset in certain curricular areas - Damien believes that the RiRS provides an ideal vehicle for such teachers to come forward, exploit their specialised skillset, attain professional fulfilment, and make a real difference to the teaching and learning offering of their school. Such an inclination directly corresponds to the Cosán strand of "Leading Learning". Such localised leadership can also take the form of leadership collectives where small pods of colleagues mutually support each other in their leadership journeys. System-wide initiatives such as School Self Evaluation or DEIS Planning provide familiar contexts for teachers who may wish to challenge their leadership ambitions in such a manner.