

Dr Kathryn McSweeney | St Angela's College

General Biography

Kathryn McSweeney has worked both as a Lecturer in Home Economics and Lecturer in Education since 2007, thus holding unique initial teacher education experience in each of the home economics disciplinary areas: social studies and family resource management; food studies; textile, fashion, and design studies; and home economics education. Currently, Kathryn is a lecturer and researcher in the School of Education and focuses explicitly on home economics pedagogics, assessment, and curriculum studies.

Kathryn's B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees were awarded by Trinity College, Dublin. Her postgraduate historical study examined the evolution of the subject of home economics in the curriculum from 1800. A synopsis of her work can be found in a book entitled *Historical and Contemporary Reflections: St. Catherine's College of Education for Home Economics, Sion Hill, Dublin, 1929 - 2007*. She was awarded a Certificate in the Principles and Practice of Assessment by the University of Cambridge in 2008. Her Ph.D. study (2014) with the University of Stirling focused on assessment practices and their impact on home economics education in Ireland. In 2018, Kathryn excelled in the area of coaching and behavioural change. Currently, she is engaged in M.Sc. leadership and management studies, and her research focuses on leading improvement in home economics teacher knowledge and methods (pedagogical content knowledge).

Kathryn's educational experience is varied and includes lecturing in St. Angela's College, teaching home economics and Irish in post-primary schools, and assessment of state examinations, including advisory and monitoring activities. Kathryn has led various funded educational research projects on topics such as the application of formative assessment in the home economics classroom (Teaching Council, 2012), the exploration of Japanese research lesson study as a model of peer-to-peer professional learning (SCoTENS, 2012; Teaching Council 2018, 2020), and the integration of global citizenship education in teacher education (Irish Aid, 2018-2022). Kathryn has numerous publications, including book chapters and features, peer-reviewed articles, conference proceedings, and newspaper articles. She presents at national and international conferences, including the International Federation for Home Economics Congress in South Korea, 2016; International Lesson Study and Community Based Learning Conference in Tokyo, 2017; and REEP Conference, Latvia, 2018 to name but a few. See <https://www.nuigalway.ie/stangelas/staffprofiles/education-staff-profiles/dr-kathryn-mcsweeney/> for further details.

I enjoy working in the continuing professional development arena. I have an excellent track record in developing practice on the ground with **home economics** and other subject teachers. As a Researcher in Residence, I can contribute to the formal and informal educational activities in which teachers engage, as life-long learners, during their teaching career. I can positively contribute to the professional growth of home economics teachers especially and enhance the quality of home economics teaching and learning. I can offer advice and support to home economics teachers willing to develop research projects. As an experienced researcher, I am willing to offer constructive advice and feedback on all elements of the research process, including the dissemination of findings at conferences and through publication.

My research projects to date involved leadership of learning in schools and supporting teachers' learning. I am interested in continuing work in lesson study, assessment, pedagogy, global citizenship education, universal design for teaching and learning, key skill development, and values education.