

Dr Laura Gormley | Dublin City University

General Biography

Throughout my career, the focus of my learning, my applied work and my research has been on improving quality of life for individuals, groups, and the population, more broadly. Since 2007, I have worked in education settings with children with complex learning needs and their families. This experience, which is ongoing, involves collaborating with other educational professionals to design, mentor and deliver evidence-informed education programmes across a range of settings, including early intervention, special schools, and autism classrooms. As part of this, I have had the opportunity to contribute to numerous research projects that have involved national and international collaboration. This has led to the dissemination of my work at national and international conferences and in a range of international peer reviewed journals.

I believe that when we know better, we must do better (Maya Angelou). Therefore, as an educator and an aspiring supporter of the Neurodivergent community, it is my responsibility to continuously question what I teach and practice and challenge myself to learn from alternative perspectives and the lived experiences of the people that I work with. Having the opportunity to be a RiRS panel member will allow me to use my extensive research and professional expertise to support and contribute towards meaningful research that can make a difference in the lives of children and young people in Ireland, as well as the educators that are supporting them. I would be particularly interested in exploring ways to embrace diversity in our schools, by focusing on changing the environment (physical, social, cultural) rather than the child. This would be an invaluable learning opportunity for me and help me take another step forward in bridging the theory-practice gap.