

“Excellence through Collaborative Leadership and Management”

Cluster Facilitation

Background to the Scheme

This scheme aims to assist schools to further develop their leadership capacity. The Department of Education and Skills invites schools to participate in a pilot scheme designed to facilitate schools in **harnessing and optimising internal leadership and management capacity at all levels.**

The scheme will comprise a national programme of projects operating at a local level. Each project will explore approaches to school leadership and management that involves and empowers all members of the senior and middle leadership teams in the participating schools.

Schools will be invited to engage in **innovative clusters** with a shared vision for school improvement.

For the purposes of this proposal, a **cluster is defined as a collection of between three and six schools** who collaborate in the design, delivery, evaluation and dissemination of the outcomes of these innovative projects.

The pilot, including the application stage, will take place from **November 2018** with a view to planning and implementation of the projects from **February 2019**. The pilot phase will run until **June 2020**.

Clusters will be hosted by Education Centres, who will establish panels of personnel from third level and business and industry to provide advice and to support schools. Access to DES support services and to the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) will also be available to school clusters.

Each cluster will appoint a Cluster Co-ordinator who will be the single point of contact for the Education Centre.

Role of Facilitator

- Attend a half day training session to prepare for the co-facilitation of the Information Session
- Facilitate the two-hour (4p.m. - 6p.m.) Information Session in the Education Centre
- Liaise with the Cluster Co-ordinator in relation to organising and facilitating meetings of the cluster



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

- Advise the Cluster Co-ordinator as to where they might source specific support
- Act as a Mentor for the Cluster Co-ordinator
- Facilitating communication and collective decision-making within the cluster