

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Irish Association of Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy (IAHIP) Stands in Full Support of the Department of Education's Pilot Programme of Counselling Supports in Primary Schools.

The Irish Association of Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy (IAHIP) proudly announces its support for the Department of Education's National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) groundbreaking Pilot Programme of Counselling Supports in Primary Schools, aimed at providing vital mental health support to primary school students. This collaboration between the Department of Education and mental health professionals marks a significant step forward in prioritising the well-being of our young learners and fostering a nurturing educational environment.

Recognising the crucial role mental health plays in the holistic development of children, the Department of Education has taken a proactive approach to address the growing mental health challenges faced by students in primary schools. In partnership with psychotherapists accredited by professional organisations such as IAHIP, pilot programme aims to offer accessible and comprehensive counselling services, empowering young individuals to navigate their emotions, understand their needs, develop resilience, and thrive academically and personally.

As an organisation dedicated to humanistic and integrative psychotherapy, IAHIP firmly believes in the importance of mental health care for children, especially during their formative years. The pilot programme's emphasis on early intervention and prevention aligns with IAHIP's core values, advocating for holistic well-being and promoting mental health awareness across society.

"We applaud the Department of Education for recognising the need to prioritise mental health and emotional well-being support in primary schools," said Tony Rice, Chairperson of IAHIP. ***"By establishing the Pilot Programme of Counselling Supports in Primary Schools, we, as a society, are taking a significant step forward in ensuring that all our children have the necessary resources and professional guidance to cultivate mental and emotional well-being and flourish in life, including in their education."***

The pilot programme will be implemented in a select number of primary schools across Ireland, allowing the Department of Education to assess its effectiveness and gather feedback from various stakeholders. The insights gained from this pilot phase will be invaluable in informing future policy in this area.

IAHIP encourages our qualified members to participate in the programme. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment that prioritises mental well-being, we can empower our children to lead fulfilling lives and contribute more fully to society.

About IAHIP:

The Irish Association of Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy (IAHIP) is a professional organisation committed to promoting humanistic and integrative psychotherapy as a valuable form of mental health care. IAHIP provides support and resources to psychotherapists and advocates for the highest standards in psychotherapy practice and training.

IAHIP is a member of the Irish Council for Psychotherapy connected to the European Association of for Psychotherapy. For more information about IAHIP please visit www.iahip.org

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