

A Message from IPPN President Deirdre Kelly

Fáilte ar ais, a chairde uilig,

As we begin another school year, I wish to extend a very warm welcome back to you all. I hope you had time over the summer to rest and recharge. On behalf of the entire IPPN team, I wish you a school year filled with good health, positivity, and the strength to meet the challenges of school leadership — along with the many rewarding moments it brings.

A particularly special welcome to those of you who are newly appointed to school leadership. Whether you are stepping into the role of principal or deputy principal for the first time, please know that IPPN is here to support you. You are not alone — our professional community is ready to offer guidance, solidarity, and practical resources as you navigate this new chapter.

School leadership is both a privilege and a challenge. We know it must continue to evolve to remain effective and sustainable. That is why IPPN is committed to advocating for system-level change that genuinely supports school leaders. We look forward to working with stakeholders across the education sector to shape a future where school leadership is both impactful and sustainable.

As you return to your schools, we encourage you to place your own wellbeing and self-care— and that of your leadership team and staff — at the heart of this year's goals. IPPN's [Position Paper on the Wellbeing of School Leaders](#), developed by the Advocacy Committee, is an important step in bringing this issue to the forefront of national policy and school practice. Let this year be one of balance and self-care, while continuing the remarkable work already being carried out by school leaders across the country.

We are also delighted to invite you to explore our newly redesigned IPPN website <https://www.ippn.ie/>. It has been developed with you in mind — making it easier than ever to access the supports, services and professional learning opportunities you need. Sincere thanks to our E-Services Committee for their dedication and expertise in bringing this project to completion — your work will benefit school leaders nationwide.

I look forward to connecting with many of you at our upcoming Autumn City/County Network Meetings, at the Principals' Conference in November, and at the Deputy Principals' Conference next February.

As you begin this new school year, please remember to take time for yourself, appreciate the moments that matter, and know that IPPN is here to support you every step of the way.

Le gach dea-ghuí don bhliain atá romhainn,

Deirdre Kelly

IPPN President